



Training Update



Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO) update

The term has well and truly begun with re-enrolment for 2018.2 now closed, with the placement portal opening for application on 23 April. Hopefully you are all settled into your placements and enjoying a change if you moved in 2018 or the comfort of familiarity if you have stayed on at your previous placement.

I hope that many of you received good news recently with the publication of 2018.1 AKT and KFP results and good luck to those of you preparing for the OSCE in May. For those who were not successful in passing, I empathise with your disappointment and hope you have support to continue working and studying and try again when you feel ready. For those looking to sit exams in 2018.2, registration is now open and closes on 18 May for RACGP exams and 13 July for ACRRM assessments. Refer to the [RACGP](#) and [ACRRM](#) websites for further details. If you are unsure about whether you have completed the requirements to sit exams, please speak to your medical educator.

As a member of the GPRA Advisory Council I have recently been involved in discussions around the AGPT Policy Review with our feedback provided to the Department of Health. GPRA will also be commencing negotiation of the next NTCER later this year.

Please contact your RLO if you need help with anything or have any concerns. We are here to help!

Dr Jessica Tidemann

RLO, Murrumbidgee & ACT

Term placement reminder

Re-enrolment for the 2018.2 (Aug 2018-Feb 2019) term has now closed.

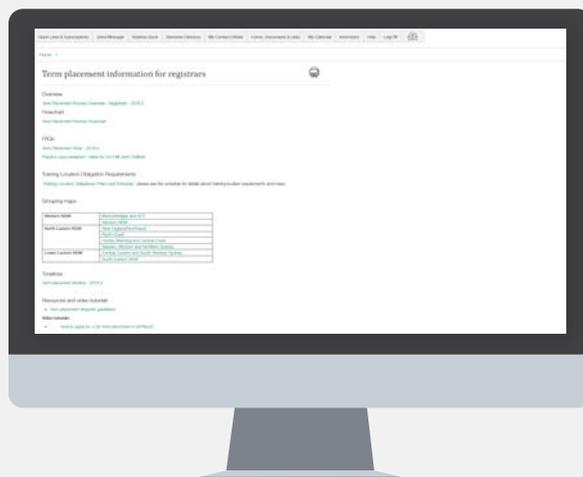
If you did not re-enrol during the re-enrolment period, please contact your education coordinator ASAP.

Term placement key dates:

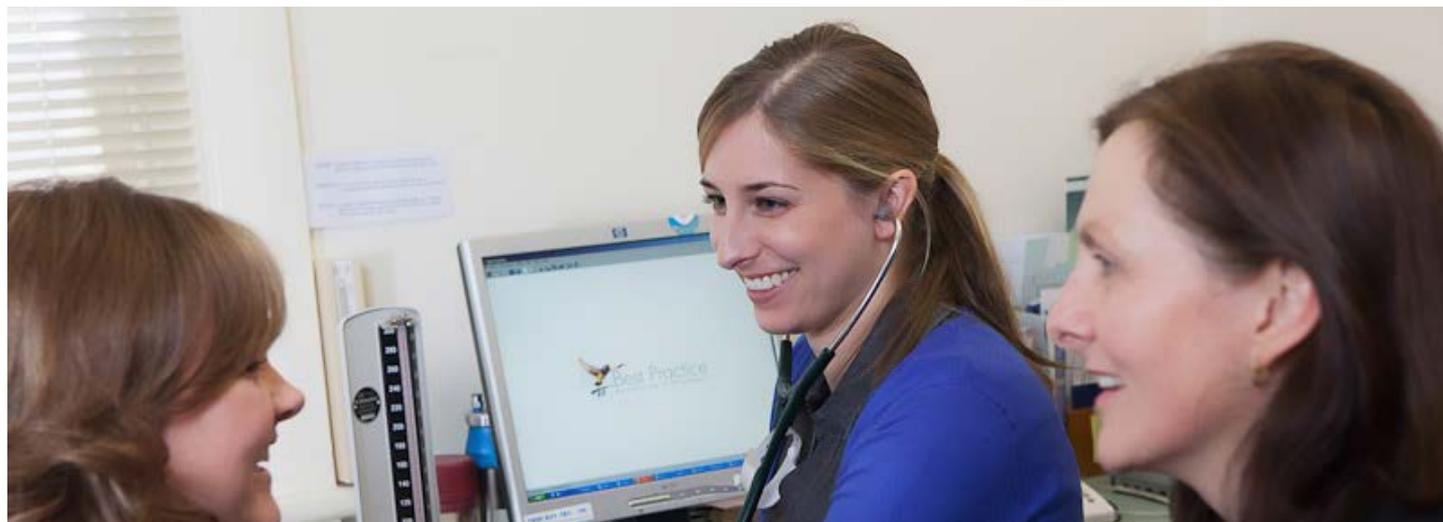
- **By 5pm 19 April:** Registrars seeking GP terms in 2018.2 will be notified of their grouping allocation.
- **23 April:** GP placement lists open for applications by registrars seeking GP terms in 2018.2.
- **22 June:** Deadline for Medicare Provider number paperwork. If you need assistance at any time during the placement process, please contact your education coordinator.

Useful resources

A list of useful resources, including a detailed FAQ guide and term placement information webinar recordings, can be found on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' – just search '[term placement](#)'. If you need assistance at any time during term placement, please contact your education coordinator.



Competency assessments and feedback during training



At GP Synergy, registrars have formal assessments during training to provide feedback on your progress during training. These assessments are done following observed consultations and are assessed on the GP Synergy Competency Grid. The grid demonstrates when a competency is expected to be achieved by a registrar (e.g. in the first few weeks or in the last few months). Assessments indicate if a registrar's competency is at the expected level, or above or below the expected level across several key areas.

There are two key types of assessments used to assess a registrar's competency during training - Clinical Teaching Visits / MiniCEX and 'Formative assessment of registrar by a supervisor' (also known as a 'competency assessment').

1. Clinical Teaching Visits / MiniCEX

What: CTVs/MiniCEXs are an important assessment of your competency and progression through training. They involve an experienced GP sitting in and observing you for one session (3 hours). They may also talk with your supervisor and other staff at the practice. The visiting GP will generate a report and use the assessment grid to indicate your level of competency across a range of areas based on your performance during the visit.

When: Two CTVs/MiniCEXs per term for registrars in their first and second GP terms, one per term for registrars in their third GP term.

How to access your feedback: The CTV/MiniCEX report is sent to you, your supervisor and your medical educator in the week/s following the visit and is available on your GPRime2+ portfolio in the 'requirements' section.

2. Formative Assessment of Registrar by a Supervisor (also known as a 'competency assessment')

What: Competency assessments are undertaken by your supervisor and should be completed following observation of one or two consultations and can be part of formal teaching. These assessments provide valuable feedback on how you are progressing during the term. The assessment is also based on the competency grid and indicates your level of competency in several areas.

When: Competency assessments take place three times a term for registrars in their first and second GP terms and twice a term for registrars in their third or fourth GP term including Extended Skills in GP.

How to access your feedback: You will receive a copy of the competency assessment when it is completed by your supervisor. A copy will also be sent to your medical educator and will be available on your portfolio.

Your feedback – 'Formative Assessment of a Supervisor by a Registrar'

What: We value feedback, as does your supervisor, and we ask you to complete the 'Formative assessment of a supervisor by a registrar' form. This feedback helps improve your experience in training as well as training experiences for other registrars. Your feedback will be sent to your medical educator and your supervisor.

When: This is required twice per term for GPT1/PRRT1 and GPT2/PRRT2 registrars in GP terms and once by registrars in GPT3/PRRT3 and Extended Skills in GP/PRRT4 terms.

How to access the form: The 'Formative assessment of a supervisor by a registrar' form found on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links'.

Stay in touch

Every term you are required to have a phone catch up (known as a Training Advisory (TA) contact) with your medical educator. If you haven't had a chance to speak to your medical educator this term, please make a time to do so.

Research project request:
How GP registrars and supervisors use delayed antibiotic prescribing for the treatment of acute respiratory tract infections



Participants: All GP registrars and supervisors

You are invited to take part in an interview as part of a research study into how GP registrars and supervisors use delayed antibiotic prescribing for the treatment of acute respiratory tract infections.

What is the research about?

The aim of this research is to investigate the use of delayed prescribing (when the doctor gives the patient a prescription with advice to not use it unless symptoms worsen or improvement does not occur by a certain time) of antibiotics for respiratory tract infections.

Why am I being asked?

We are inviting all registrars and supervisors from GP Synergy to participate.

We will need participants from a diverse range of practices and experience, so as to get the most variety in our sample.

This study will contribute to our understanding of this topic, and to creating better educational approaches for GP registrars.

What do I have to do?

Participants will be asked to complete a telephone interview regarding their experience and perceptions of delayed prescribing of antibiotics. This will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

More information?

If you would like to be involved or would like further information, please contact Research Assistant Katie Mulquiney from the GP Synergy Research and Evaluation Unit at Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au or on 8321 4242 for a copy of the Participant Information Sheet or to ask any questions.

With thanks for your consideration,

Dr Anthea Dallas, GP and Chief Investigator

on behalf of the research team based at the GP Synergy Research and Evaluation Unit

Research project request:
Learn more about how your skills in clinical reasoning are developing - the Diagnostic Thinking Inventory (DTI)



Participants: All GPT1/PRRT1 registrars

Registrars in their first GP term will have received an email via Survey Monkey from Dr Linda Klein of the Research and Evaluation Unit, requesting that you complete this well-established, validated instrument, to give you individualised feedback about your clinical reasoning and diagnostic thinking.

What is the research about?

Clinical reasoning is a vital skill for clinical practice and essential for GPs to attain for independent practice.

Assessment of clinical reasoning is also the objective of both the RACGP's Key Features Problem (KFP) exam and ACRRM's StAMPS exam.

Following completion of the DTI by GPT1/PRRT1 registrars, you will receive a report on your individualised DTI scores that will provide you with the opportunity to reflect on and to further develop your own clinical reasoning skills.

More information?

Look for the DTI email now. If you can't locate it, please contact Linda Klein (linda_klein@gpsynergy.com.au) or Racheal Norris (racheal_norris@gpsynergy.com.au).

New Professionalism Policy

There is a new GP Synergy '[Professionalism Policy](#)'.

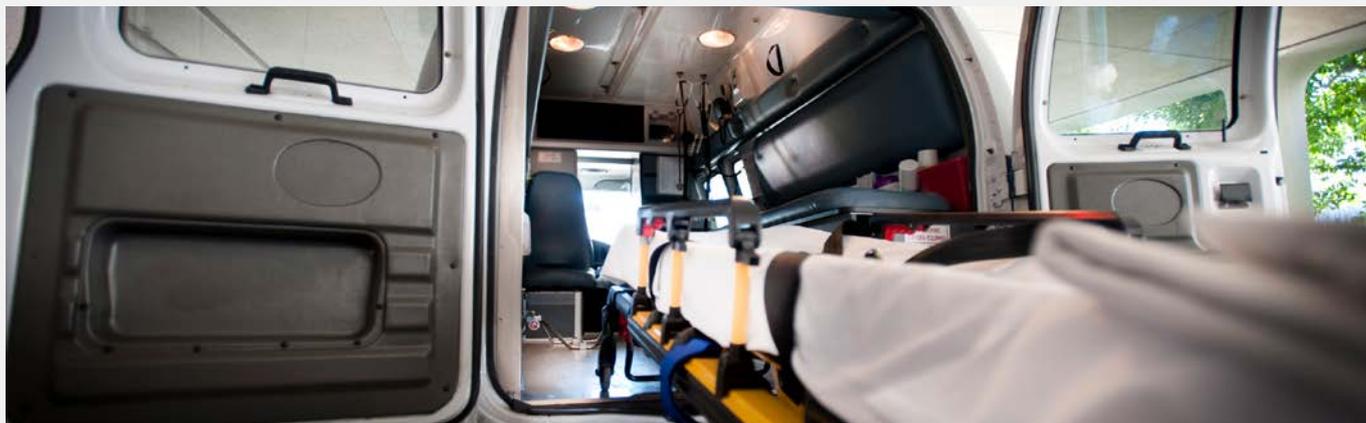
This policy applies to all GP Synergy registrars, supervisors, practice staff of GP Synergy accredited training facilities, Clinical Teaching Visitors, educators and facilitators

To access the policy:

1. login to [GPRime2](#)
2. go to 'Forms, Documents and Links'
3. search 'Professionalism'.



Clinical pearl: A TIA is an emergency



All patients with suspected **transient ischaemic attack** (TIA; defined as: new onset focal neurological symptoms, suspected of being due to focal ischaemia, that have fully resolved) are a medical EMERGENCY. There is considerable risk of stroke post-TIA, greatest in the first few hours and days, and urgent treatment markedly reduces stroke risk. Atrial fibrillation (AF) and carotid stenosis are especially high-risk in the setting of TIA and detection is vital.

Initial investigation and commencement of therapy should be completed within 24 hours.

Evidence from the ReCEnT project suggests registrars are relatively inexperienced in TIA management and may struggle to facilitate investigation and treatment within these time-frames.¹

Urgent specialist assessment for all suspected TIA patients is desirable but is not feasible within the recommended time frames in some areas of NSW and ACT. Be aware of local TIA pathways and support services for GPs and consult your supervisor.

CAVEAT: this clinical pearl applies to TIAs. Persisting or fluctuating symptoms = STROKE and require immediate ambulance transport to emergency department and stroke specialist assessment and investigation with a view to reperfusion therapy where appropriate.

For further information: This clinical pearl is based on: Stroke Foundation. Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2017. Melbourne Australia. Chapter 2.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.magicapp.org/guideline/aa627265-ed86-4531-bd00-becd56ed9d6c/published_guideline_2143-6_1.pdf

¹ Davey A, Lasserson D, Levi C, Morgan S, Tapley A, Henderson H, Holliday E, Ball J, van Driel M, McArthur L, Spike N, Stewart R, Magin P Early-career general practitioners' management of transient ischaemic attack: a cross-sectional analysis. *International Journal of Stroke*. (published online 21/11/17) DOI: 10.1177/1747493017743053

Are you interested in rural generalist/procedural general practice?

Applications for rural generalist advanced skills training for 2019 will be open from 19 July 2018 to 20 August 2018.

Registrars in rural pathway may be eligible to apply.

Application and selection is managed by the Health Education Training Institute (HETI). For further information please see: <http://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/Rural-and-Remote/Rural-Generalist-Training/>

Find out more

Please contact your medical educator or Special Programs and Education Manager, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au if you have any queries about rural generalist/procedural skills training.

Find out more about what procedural GPs do by viewing the video of GP Obstetrician and Anaesthetist, Dr Scott Finlay in Moree.



College fellowship assessment enrolment*

ACRRM fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1: Enrolments closed
- 2018.2: Assessment enrolment closes 4 June 2018.

For more information visit the [ACRRM website](#)

RACGP fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1 AKT/KFP: Enrolments closed
- 2018.1 OSCE: Enrolments closed 29 March 2018
- 2018.2 AKT/KFP: Enrolments open 19 March – 18 May 2018
- 2018.2 OSCE: Enrolments open 19 March – 7 September 2018.

For further information visit the [RACGP website](#)

*Dates are subject to change. Always check the RACGP and ACRRM websites for the most up-to-date information.

Key dates

19 April: Registrars notified of grouping allocation

23 Apr: Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

21 May: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2018.2 term

16 July: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*

5 Aug: End date term 1 2018

For a list of important training dates, see the new key dates calendar on our [website](#).



Applications for the 2019 AGPT program are now open!

If you know someone interested in GP training, let them know applications are now open for the 2019 AGPT program, and they close at 10.00am AEST on 30 April 2018.

Applications can be made from the [RACGP](#) and/or [ACRRM](#) website.

Academic post EOI now open



Expressions of interest are now open for RACGP registrars considering undertaking an academic post as part of their GP training:

- [RACGP](#): EOI open from 9 April 2018 and close on 20 May 2018
- ACRRM registrars can contact ACRRM to express their interest on training@acrrm.org.au

Formal applications will open from **21 May - 2 July 2018**.

Registrars considering academic posts are encouraged to contact GP Synergy's Research and Evaluation Unit Director, Prof Parker Magin on parker_magin@gpsynergy.com.au.

Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium

GP Synergy Deputy Regional Head of Education – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney, Dr Marisa Magiros, will be speaking about a career in medical education at the inaugural Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium in Sydney on 5 May 2018.

The aim of the conference is to highlight the many fields of medicine that doctors can work in, complementing direct patient care, to create longevity in medicine.

If you are interested in finding out more head to: <https://www.creativecareersinmedicine.com/>

Registrar discount for new Medcast workshop series

Medcast is launching a new Australian workshop series in conjunction with NB Medical from the UK.

[Hot Topics GP Update](#) is a one day, evidence-based, lecture series that includes an update on the latest evidence in general practice, delivered by GPs for GPs and GP registrars. Participants receive a 150-page workbook of clinical topic summaries.

To get a significant discount on the ticket price use promo code: 'GPSReg' - \$180.

Find out more at: <https://medcast.com.au/education/gp-update-hot-topics>

Applications now open for Registrar Medical Educators (RegME)

We are seeking GP registrars who have preferably completed two GP terms and have an interest in GP registrar education to join our medical education team as a Registrar Medical Educator (RegME) in each of our training subregions.

Becoming involved in general practice medical education provides the opportunity to develop the future health workforce, enabling succession planning through the provision of well trained and highly skilled general practitioners.

The primary purpose of this role is to assist in the design and delivery of the formal educational program for GP Synergy registrars and will work together with a senior medical educator in carrying out those tasks.

Activities will include providing practical assistance and support to GP registrars and hands on development and implementation of educational resources.

For more information and to apply head to: <https://gpsynergy.com.au/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Meet former RegME, Dr Elise Perger



Elise started working with GP Synergy in August 2017 as a RegME as part of an extended skills term, she has recently transitioned to being a medical educator.

Tell us a little bit about being a RegME?

As a RegME I provided support for registrars predominantly about study planning and the exams, so I spent most of my time evaluating and developing resources, these were in response to registrar requests through the GP Synergy Exam Prep Facebook page or the Exam Working Group. I also delivered education sessions for registrars completing their hospital rotations in Lower Eastern NSW.

I recently fellowed and I'm very excited to be able to stay on with GP Synergy as a medical educator, I'm looking forward to having more individual input with registrars and continuing my own development in medical education.

What do you enjoy most about working for GP Synergy?

I enjoyed training with GP Synergy and really appreciate the support I had during that time. It is great to have the opportunity to give back to the program and to pass on what I have learnt.

Soaking up the sun and the surf: Meet GP Registrar, Dr Paul Barnett and his GP Supervisor, Dr Gudrun (Gundi) Muller-Grotjan



Dr Paul Barnett is training on the Far South Coast of NSW and relishes being able to go for a surf before and after work, his supervisor Dr Gudrun (Gundi) Muller-Grotjan has lived all over the world but has fallen in love with the small town of Narooma.

Training in general practices in Narooma and Bermagui, Dr Paul Barnett is enjoying the beach and surf, as well as his work as a GP.

Now in his third term of training his long-term aim is to be a country GP.

"I had thought about working in a hospital setting but general practice provides continuity of care to patients, a wide range of presentations as well as flexibility.

"Working as a GP registrar enables me to live in a beautiful place like Narooma.

"Narooma is not too isolated but is far enough away to be out of the rat-race, I can walk to work, and I never have to wait at traffic lights.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying my training, the community is friendly and welcoming, it's a beautiful part of NSW and there are also plenty of fun things to do," he said.

Lifestyle was also a factor in Dr Muller-Grotjan choosing to be a rural GP, and as a GP supervisor she appreciates the importance to small communities of training registrars.

"Registrars bring new life and up-to-date knowledge – all our registrars are funny, intelligent, interesting people and have become valued members of our community.

"Supervising forces me to stay on top of evidence-based medicine and I constantly learn new perspectives from my registrars.

"In addition to factual knowledge I try to teach my registrars the essence of rural general practice which is making a difference in people's lives.

"When one of my complex patients recently asked which surgery to go to when he moved away from the area I suggested he look for a surgery that teaches registrars and students – I think that is the best guarantee of getting best quality care!" she said.

Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term workshops

- Western NSW Node 1 – Western NSW | Fusion Workshop – 20-22 June | Sydney
 - Western NSW Node 2 – Murrumbidgee and Riverina | 24 May | Half day - Various sites
 - Western NSW Node 3 – Sth Eastern NSW & ACT | 24 May or 25 May | Half day - various sites
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- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1 – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney | 9 May | Little Bay
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 2 – Sth Eastern NSW and Wollongong | 10-11 May | Wollongong
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 3 – Sth Eastern NSW and ACT | 12-13 April | Canberra
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- North Eastern NSW Node 1 – North Coast | 11 May (only some registrars) | Coffs Harbour
 - North Eastern NSW Node 2 – New England/ Northwest | Fusion Workshop – 19-22 June | Sydney
 - North Eastern NSW Node 3 – Hunter, Manning and Central Coast | 4 May | Newcastle
 - North Eastern NSW Node 4 – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney | 23 May | Little Bay

Exam preparation workshops

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now being planned for registrars sitting the exams in 2018.1 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently being planned for registrars sitting ACRRM assessments. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au

External activities of interest

- Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium | 5 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- STEMI ACLS Program | 19 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- Medcast and NB Medical | 19 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- The University of Newcastle (UON) - Advanced Training In Suicide Prevention | 19 May | Scone | [More information](#)

For further information please see the [External Education Activity Noticeboard](#).

Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Tia Dickson - 02 8321 4101
tia_dickson@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238
heidi_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Kym Cashen - 02 8321 4112
kym_cashen@gpsynergy.com.au
- **New England/Northwest:**
Sally Lucas - 02 8321 4015
sally_lucas@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Joanne Sayer - 02 8321 4128
joanne_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Rachel Harris - 02 8321 4212
rachel_harris@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
catherine_daly@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Amanda Piatek - 02 8321 4164
amanda_piatek@gpsynergy.com.au

Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Currently vacant. Please contact another RLO.
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
Sama Balasubramanian –
RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Rebecca Chan - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Jessica Swan - RLO_SouthEastern@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Currently vacant. Please contact another RLO.
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jessica Tidemann -
RLO_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au

Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**
Kerry Robins - kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Maria Logan - maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
Sue Hefren - sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
April McFadden - april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au