



Training Update



CEO update

GP training arrangements

As you may be aware, the Commonwealth has stated that the two colleges, the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), are to assume control of the AGPT program from 2022 forward.

From next year, we enter a transitional period (2019 to 2022) as program governance is progressively transitioned from the Department of Health to the colleges. I am pleased that both colleges and the Department of Health (DoH) have reinforced that the Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) will be retained to deliver AGPT into the future. The RACGP is in discussion with RTOs to deliver a national Practice Experience Pathway (PEP), a program designed to support non-AGPT Overseas Trained Doctors towards fellowship.

This continued investment into the national RTO infrastructure and growth is welcome news. It ensures continued stability for registrars and practices through and beyond transition and signals continued growth in general practice training to meet the health workforce needs of our community.

The DoH has since established a Transition Working Group consisting of key stakeholders, including RTO representatives. The group is focussing on communication strategy and key milestones. We will continue to deliver high quality general practice education and training and work closely with the colleges, DoH and our key stakeholders throughout the transition phase.

2019 AGPT recruitment and rural training pipeline priority subregion preferencing

With applications now closed for the 2019 Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program intake, we are hoping to repeat last year's success in which we exceeded our original rural pathway GP training intake quota and filled 99% of our general pathway positions.

For 2019, we have been allocated over one third of training places available nationally – 2.5 times the number of training places offered by any other Regional Training Organisation (RTO) as shown in the graph.

This year we are pleased to introduce a new subregion priority preferencing scheme to support rural pathway applicants who demonstrate significant commitment to a subregion. Whilst this initiative does not overcome merit-based entry into the program, it is an important step towards ensuring the rural training pipeline is maintained for doctors within their shortlisted GP Synergy training region.



Supervision for GP registrars undertaking advanced rural skills posts

The issue of supervision for GP registrars who have undertaken procedural skills training as part of the AGPT program in disciplines such as obstetrics and anaesthesia is complicated and involves a number of stakeholders from across the clinical spectrum. To seek clarity around the issue, last month we held a meeting with a broad range of stakeholders from across the sector including local health districts, GP proceduralists and the colleges of general practice.

The meeting demonstrated a number of policy and process failures that affect procedural GP registrars when transitioning to community based general practice and exercising their advanced skills. The content of the meeting is being considered by a panel of relevant and experienced persons who will provide GP Synergy with some direction on the matter. We expect this work will provide recommendations for GP Synergy and other stakeholders to improve systems and clinical governance arrangements.

Mr John Oldfield | Chief Executive Officer

Important changes to the contract and Medicare provider number process

As term placements lists opened for application on 23 April, many practices will soon be making offers to registrars.

This is a reminder that an important change in the GP Synergy contract and term placement/Medicare provider number process is taking effect this term:

- Once the practice has made an offer to a registrar and they have accepted, GP Synergy will review and approve the term (no change).
- **Important change:** At this stage, the contract for training between GP Synergy and the practice will be raised. The contract must be accepted by the practice for the relevant term placement paperwork required for provider numbers to be issued.
- Following the contract being accepted, the registrar will be sent the provider number paperwork to complete with a copy of this email sent to the practice (as per the usual process).
- The Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) for teaching allowances and practice subsidies, will be generated closer to the commencement of the term once the placement is secured and agreed.

Any changes to registrar training placement across the term (such as a change from full-time to part-time training, etc), will no longer require a new contract to be signed and once confirmed by both parties; the training records will be updated and if necessary a new RCTI will be raised.

To find out more

Please see the '[Term Placement Information for Practices](#)' located on GPRime, under 'Forms, Documents and Links', just search 'Term placement'.

If you have any queries about this process at any time, please contact your Practice Liaison and Support Officer (PLSO).

National Sorry Day (26 May) and National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June)

The end of May will mark several culturally significant dates – National Sorry Day on 26 May and National Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June.

Sorry Day is held to recognise and acknowledge members of the Stolen Generations.

National Reconciliation Week commemorates the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision, two culturally significant moments in the advancement of reconciliation.

To learn more about these culturally significant dates, visit the [GP Synergy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health website](#).

Practice makes a training offer via GPRime2.

Registrar accepts offer via GPRime2.

GP Synergy sends the practice the contract.

Practice accepts the contract.

GP Synergy send the term placement and Medicare Provider number paperwork to the registrar.

IMPORTANT: This will only happen after the practice has accepted the contract.

Practice and registrar complete term placement and Medicare Provider number paperwork as per usual process.

A Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) will be sent to the practice close to the start of term

Key dates

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 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 2018.1

6 Aug: Start date 2018.2

3 Feb: End date term 2018.2

*These dates are indicative only and may vary if a registrar is part-time or commenced a GP term after the first week of term.

 Don't forget! A list of key dates can be found on the [GP Synergy website](#).



2018 supervisor educational continuing professional development requirements now available.

The 2018 GP Synergy supervisor Educational Continuing Professional Development (EdCPD) requirements are now available on GPRime.

To access:

1. Login to GPRime
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links'
3. Search 'PD'.

What's changed?

There have been some minor amendments to the requirements which have been reviewed by the Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLOs) and the Committee Overseeing Supervisor Education (COSE).

In summary, the changes/additions are:

1. Use of the term EdCPD for Educational Continuing Professional Development.
2. New supervisors are required to complete the new supervisor orientation module. There are also now only two options for clinical teacher training – the attendance at the Clinical Teacher Training Workshop (CTTW) or recognition of prior learning, with strong emphasis on attendance at CTTW for new supervisors. Provisions for exceptional circumstances where exemption from CTTW can be sought should be discussed with the accreditation officer and requires pre-approval by the director of supervisor education.
3. No significant change to EdCPD recommendations within the three year accreditation cycle however there is increased emphasis on attendance at face-to-face regional workshops to meet this requirement, plus a reminder that this requirement applies whether you train a registrar or not within the three year time frame.
4. The new supervisor portfolio allows supervisors to see the EdCPD they have attended with GP Synergy.
5. Involvement in selection is no longer included as an EdCPD activity.
6. GPSA webinars have been acknowledged as another EdCPD activity that can be logged on the supervisor portfolio of supervisors choosing to submit a record of attendance.
7. Payment for webinar attendance requires the supervisor to be logged on for more than 30 minutes of the scheduled event.



2018 GPTEC EOIs now open



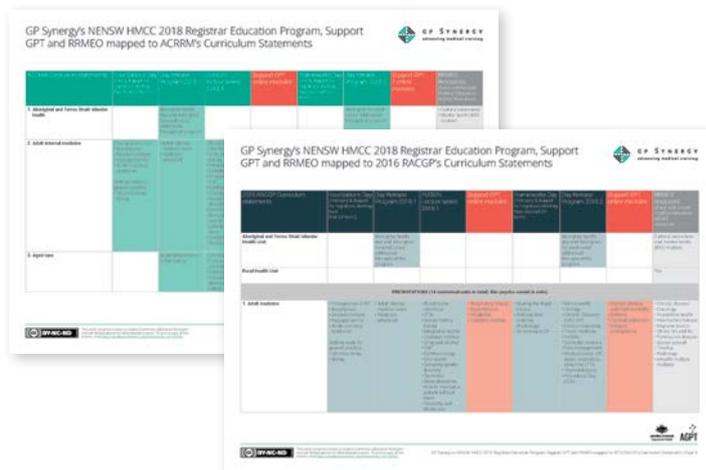
GP Synergy is delighted to again be subsidising a number of places for supervisors at the annual General Practice Education and Training Conference (GPTEC).

This year the conference will be held in Adelaide from Tuesday 11 September 2018 - Thursday 13 September 2018.

An invitation to **submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by 11 May** has been sent to all supervisors by email.

If you have any queries, or are unable to find this email, please contact Program Support and Event Coordinator, Jacky Porter on jacky_porter@gpsynergy.com.au

Curriculum maps



To help GP registrars and supervisors plan their learning and teaching, GP Synergy has mapped the GP Synergy education program to the RACGP and ACRRM curriculums. This allows registrars and supervisors to identify which areas of the curriculum are covered by GP Synergy and which aspects require additional self-directed and/or in-practice learning.

To access:

1. Login to GPRime
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' – top toolbar
3. Search 'curriculum'.

Helping registrars prepare for fellowship exams



GP Synergy provides a range of exam resources for GP registrars, as well as resources to help supervisors prepare their registrar for fellowship assessments.

What exam preparation support does GP Synergy provide for GP registrars?

- **Resources available to all registrars:**
 - Google exam resources drive: This resource is available to all registrars at any stage of training. It has several resources including the Exam Resource Spreadsheet which lists relevant resources (i.e. Check, How to Treat, guidelines, etc) in a matrix based on the BEACH data).
 - Self-assessment grid: This tool allows registrars to assess the areas they need to improve on relevant to Australian General Practice.
- **Resources available to registrars sitting RACGP exams:**
 - KFP symptom template study aid
 - GP Synergy AKT and KFP mock online assessments and answer session
 - GP Synergy OSCE preparation and mock exam workshops
 - RACGP exam DVDs for hire.
- **Resources available to registrars sitting ACRRM exams:**
 - GP Synergy mock MCQ online
 - GP Synergy mock primary StAMPS workshop
 - Mock Case Based Discussion (CBD): One on one videoconference with a medical educator reviewing two cases.
 - ACRRM exam workshops/initiatives: GP Synergy provides financial support for registrars enrolled in the current exam cycle to participate in ACRRM StAMPs Mock Exam Workshop and ACRRM StAMPs study groups.

What exam preparation resources are available for supervisors to access?

- **Exam preparation resources for registrars list:**
 - To access resources available to registrars login to GPRime, go to 'Forms, Documents and Links', and search 'exam'.
- **Webinars – How to support your registrar prepare for exams:**
 - GP Synergy provides bi-annual webinars for supervisors to help them prepare their registrars for exams. The next upcoming sessions are listed below:
 - Preparing your registrar for ACRRM exams: 16 Aug | 7.30-8.30pm
 - Preparing your registrar for RACGP exams: 19 Sept | 7.30-8.30pm
 - To access recordings of webinars held in earlier in the year on the same topics login to GPRime, go to 'Form Documents and Links' and search 'webinar'.
- **Supervisor toolkit:**
 - RACGP exam resources – helping your registrar prepare PowerPoint available on the Supervisor Toolkit on GPRime2 (under 'Forms, Documents and Links', search 'toolkit').

2018 Registrar academic applications open 21 May - 2 July

With the application opening date for registrar academic posts just around the corner (**21 May - 2 July 2018**) it's a great time to feature some of our academic registrars and their academic projects.

During GP training registrars have the opportunity to build their skills in the areas of research and critical thinking through 12-month academic post training terms. The post aims to provide exposure to research and the academic environment and encourages registrars to incorporate academic work into their careers.

The posts are funded through the Department of Health and administered and managed by the two colleges of general practice.



Rachel Turner - The University of Newcastle

Research topic: I'm looking at contraception prescribing by GP registrars and attitudes towards different contraceptive methods.

Rationale: Australia has one of the highest rates of both unplanned pregnancy, and terminations in the developing world. This seems at odds with the number of contraceptive options that are available to women. I want to see what influences the prescribing behaviours of GP registrars in relation to contraception.

Why I did the post: Being an academic registrar has allowed me to improve my research skills and become part of a research community. I hope to have the opportunity to present my research across the country at academic conferences this year. I've also been able to start a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Epidemiology at The University of Newcastle with the professional development funds awarded to me as part of this post.



Alum Sheila Uyirwoth - The University of Notre Dame Australia

Research topic: I am researching the information provided on Australian non-surgical cosmetic practice websites, and if that information is provided in an ethical manner that aligns with current medical guidelines.

Rationale: Cosmetic medicine is an increasingly prevalent area of clinical practice that general practitioners will invariably be asked about by their patients. I have an interest in this fairly new, and fast growing, surgical and non-surgical industry, and more troubling the increased rate of procedure-related complications in some of the facilities offering these procedures.

Why I did the post: I was attracted by the opportunity to investigate a topic I have an interest in. The benefits of undertaking an academic post in GP training allows for a gentle introduction into research with the scope to extend it further. This post also provides exposure to the culture of research and evidence-based medicine which underpins our clinical practice.



Melinda Choy - The Australian National University

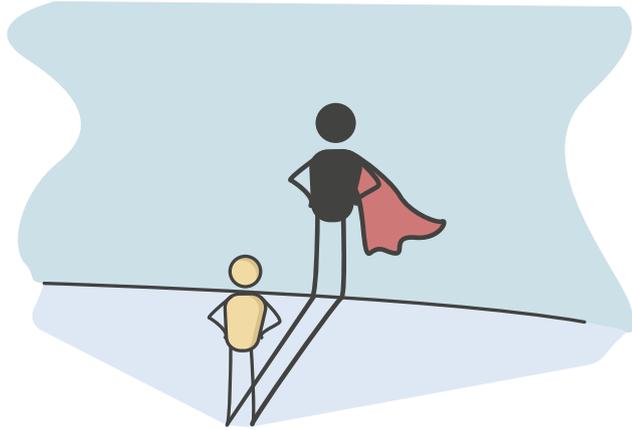
Research topic: My project is based around understanding how the introduction of eCHAT (Electronic Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool) affects the therapeutic relationship at a general practice servicing a vulnerable population. eCHAT is an in-depth online assessment of an individual's health symptoms and history, the tool publishes a summary with recommendations for care plans.

Rationale: This project is in part a branch of the eCHAT project that started in New Zealand. However, this research is the first of its kind in Australia, and the first research into the use of eCHAT with a vulnerable population.

Why I did the post: The appeal of this project is the opportunity to research the therapeutic relationship using qualitative and quantitative methods. My post has provided a wonderful opportunity to meet interesting people, learn useful teaching and research skills, as well as explore the academic general practice lifestyle balance for myself.



Are you interested in becoming a mentor for a budding rural GP?



We are piloting a new mentoring program to help prevocational doctors and final year medical students access information and support about rural general practice during their formative career decision making years.

How does it work?

Under the program, prevocational doctors and final year medical students can contact GP Synergy and request a rural GP mentor. They will then be matched with a suitable registrar or supervisor who will contact them, offering advice and answering any questions they may have.

Is it paid?

Yes! Participating supervisors will be paid a one-off payment of \$140.34 per doctor/student they are allocated to mentor.

What's involved?

At minimum, GP Synergy requires mentors to respond to the mentee's enquiry in a timely manner and provide practical advice and information (as appropriate) to their queries. Anything above and beyond that is up to you.

How can you get involved?

If you are interested in signing up to be a mentor, please contact Kate or Paula for more information on on applicant@gpsynergy.com.au

Medical Educator with a Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) Update



This edition, Dr Jo Bruce, a Medical Educator with Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) shares her mid-term supervision tips.

We are now midway through term 1 2018 and registrars should now be settled into the routine of our practices. The process of recruiting registrars for the second half of this year has begun and it's a good time to reflect on how the term is going. Do your registrars have a learning plan? How is the registrar fitting in to your practice and are you modeling a culture of teaching and learning? As Mahatma Gandhi, said "Constant development is the law of life, and a man who always tries to maintain his dogmas in order to appear consistent drives himself into a false position."

Interactive learning and feedback are key elements of the supervisor registrar relationship. Feedback from your registrars can be found on GPRime through the supervisor portfolio and I would encourage you to take a look and review what the registrars think – I personally have found it invaluable to learn what does and doesn't work for our registrars. I agree that what works for one registrar may not work for another but I've learnt through the feedback process to address this at the beginning of term so we start with each new registrar in a meaningful and personalised way.

The supervisor education program is in full swing for 2018. We have completed six webinars since the beginning of term, with many more planned, and it is wonderful to see so many supervisors participating. There has also been 10 face to face regional workshop sessions across NSW and the ACT and more sessions are planned in each region. These regional workshops generate an amazing opportunity for colleagues from the same region to meet and allow discussion and opportunities for us to learn from each other. The Supervisor Development Day on 16 June 2018 is another opportunity for GP Synergy supervisors from across NSW and ACT to gather and learn together. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dr Jo Bruce

Medical Educator with a Supervisor Portfolio
Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney

External activities of interest

- 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](#)
- DHM Pathology - Thyroid Surgery in Rural Practice | 22 May | Armidale
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 7-8 July | Coffs Harbour | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Advanced Life Support (ALS) | 14 July – Newcastle | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Obstetrics Training (REOT) | 15 July | Newcastle | [More information](#)
- ACRRM – Ultrasound | 18 August | Sydney | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 15-16 September | Sydney | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Advanced Life Support (ALS) | 24 November | Sydney | [More information](#)

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

Need some help?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Alyce Piggott - 02 8321 4060
alyce_piggott@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Emie Roy - 02 8321 4068
emie_roy@gpsynergy.com.au
- **New England/Northwest:**
Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Rhonda O'Dell - 02 8321 4126
rhonda_odell@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211
kim_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au

Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Dr Ken Hazelton -
ken_hazelton@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Dr James Boyd - james_boyd@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Dr John Vaughan -
john_vaughan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Dr Cecile Dinh - cecile_dinh@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
Dr Ken Mackey - ken_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Dr Aline Smith - aline_smith@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast**
Dr Ian Charlton - ian_charlton@gpsynergy.com.au

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the SLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

Positions vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an SLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following SLO positions:

- ACT

Award nominations now open for ACRRM and RACGP

ACRRM awards

ACRRM is now accepting nomination for the following awards:

- Life Fellowship
- Honorary Fellowship
- Honorary Membership
- The Peter Graham 'Cohuna' Award
- RDAA-ACRRM Rural Registrar of the Year award
- Distinguished Service Awards
- RDAA Rural Doctor of the Year Award
- RDAA Medical Student of the Year Award
- ACRRM President's Prize.

Nominations close: Monday 2 July 2018.

Further information: [ACRRM website](#)

RACGP awards

RACGP is now accepting nomination for the following awards:

- **NSW and ACT awards:**
 - General Practice of the Year Award 2018
 - General Practice Supervisor of the Year Award 2018
 - General Practitioner of the Year Award 2018
 - Registrar of the Year Award 2018
 - **Nominations close:** 18 May 2018.
- **Rural awards:**
 - 2018 Brian Williams Award
 - 2018 Rural Registrar of the Year Award
 - 2018 Medical Student Bursary Award
 - **Nominations close:** 18 May 2018.
- **RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health awards:**
 - Growing Strong Award
 - Standing Strong Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Award
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Student Bursary Award
 - **Nominations close:** 11 June 2018.