

# General Practitioner Procedural Training Support Program (GPPTSP)

2024 Application Guidelines

Anaesthetics



# General Practitioner Procedural Training Support Program **Anaesthetics**

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

MAY 2024

*These applicant guidelines pertain to the Anaesthetics component only. For the obstetrics component, please refer to [RANZCOG](#)*

## History, Aims and Objectives

The Maternity Services Review report *'Improving Maternity Services in Australia'*, delivered in February 2009, identified the need to improve access to maternity services for women in rural and remote locations. There was little incentive for rural GPs to undertake additional training to broaden their skills base so that they could provide more comprehensive services to their communities. In response, the Government announced in the 2009-10 Budget a package of measures including a support program for GPs to complete the procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics. The initiative targets existing GPs in rural and remote areas and, accordingly, limits support to GPs practising in those areas.

The Government's health workforce agenda is seeking to address structural and financial barriers that impinge on the capacity of individual health professionals to increase their skills, through training, to enhance the provision of services required by their communities.

The initiative to support General Practitioners (GPs) in rural and remote areas, to complete the procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics will help overcome workforce shortages and increase the availability of maternity services in those areas.

An external review of the Rural Procedural Training Programs, including the General Practitioner Procedural Training Support Program (GPPTSP) was undertaken by the Nous Group in 2017. The review introduced some targeted reforms to GPPTSP to enhance the program outcomes.

- The aim of the Program is to improve access to obstetric and anaesthetic services for women living in rural and remote communities by supporting GPs to attain procedural skills in obstetrics or anaesthetics.
- The objective of the Program is to provide funding of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) to eligible GPs to enable them to gain either the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Associate Training

Program (Advanced Procedural) (AFTP)) or an Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (RGA). Only GPs practising in rural and remote areas (MMM3 -7) are eligible to apply for support.

- The Program will provide support for up to 20 eligible grant recipients to complete the procedural training program in obstetrics or anaesthetics. Of these places, up to 10 will be for the anaesthetics component and up to 20 for the obstetrics component (managed through RANZCOG).

## Application Process

### Eligibility:

Applicants wishing to apply for support will need to satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- They are a General Practitioner. For the purposes of this program means a medical practitioner who has achieved Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.
- The physical location of their principle clinical practice is in an MMM 3-7 area.

An application form will be available on ACRRM's website for GPs wishing to apply for support. The application form will seek information on a range of matters, such as:

- GP Fellowship status;
- Medicare Provider Number;
- Ahpra registration;
- Location and MMM classification of principal clinical practice;
- Location and MMM classification of the practice where the applicant intends to use the skills of the Program;
- Demonstrated need for a GP with procedural qualifications in obstetrics or anaesthetics in the applicant's geographic area;
- Current visa held by non-Australian citizens;
- The number of clinicians in the hospitals in their locality;
- The number of GPs in the area for which the applicant is applying.

### Assessment / Ranking of Applications

A GPPTSP Selection Committee will be established by ACRRM to consider applications for support through the anaesthetic component. The GPPTSP Selection Committee will only consider matters related to the eligibility and assessment criteria and ranking of applicants as outlined in these guidelines. Any matter relating to the anaesthetic training program is the responsibility of the Tripartite Committee of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (TC-RGA).

The GPPTSP Selection Committee established by ACRRM may include a representative from the RGA and the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Only applicants who fully meet the eligibility criteria set out in eligibility section above will be considered for support.

The GPPTSP Selection Committee will rank eligible applications on the basis of:

**Rurality / remoteness (i.e. MMM);**

- This criterion will be given a weighting of 50%;
- A location in MMM3 will score 1 out of 4; MMM4 will score 2 out of 4; MMM5 will score 3 out of 4; and MMM6-7 will score 4 out of 4.

**Need and availability of maternity services and anaesthetics skills in the GP's geographic area of practice.**

- This criterion will be given a weighting of 50%;
- A greater need demonstrated relative to other applications will score higher.
- The maximum score will be 4 out of 4.

If more than one applicant records the same score after the GPPTSP Selection Committee considers the above criteria, then a higher ranking will be given to the applicant(s) that has obtained a training post in an accredited hospital.

The Chief Executive Officer of ACRRM, in consultation with the Chair of the GPPTSP Selection Committee, will determine the successful applicants to be offered support through the anaesthetic component, based on the recommendations of the GPPTSP Selection Committee and the funds available.

## Payments to Support Recipients

Successful applicants for support through the anaesthetic component will enter into a funding agreement and be paid a total of \$40,000 (GST exclusive) directly by ACRRM. This payment will be made as follows:

- An initial payment of \$35,000 following acceptance into the RGA Training Program and commencement of training at an accredited site.
- A final payment of \$5,000 following successful completion of the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia

## Reporting by Support Recipients

All Support Recipients will be required to lodge an annual report to ACRRM on progress towards completing the Rural Generalist Anaesthesia Training Programs.

All Support Recipients will be required to lodge a final report to ACRRM on completion of the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia. The final report to ACRRM for Support Recipients in the anaesthetics component of the Program will include a copy of the letter from the Tripartite Committee of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia that confirms completion of all the training requirements for Advanced Rural Skills Training in Anaesthesia.

## Conditions of the Program

- On being offered support by ACRRM, the successful applicant is required to enter into an agreement with ACRRM, which specifies the obligations of both parties.
- Under the Program, Support Recipients will receive a total of \$40,000 (GST exclusive).
- From the date of being offered Support, the GP has 6 months to confirm to ACRRM that they have secured a training post and have enrolled for the Rural Generalist Anaesthesia Training Program. Support Recipients are expected to complete their RGA qualification within 2 years from the date they commence the training.

## Refund of Support Funds

If a Support Recipient ceases to be enrolled in the RGA Training Program, the reasons for such action will need to be lodged by the Support Recipient with ACRRM.

ACRRM would then need to consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether the support provided to the Support Recipient under GPPTSP should be refunded.

Support Recipients are expected to successfully complete the Advanced Certificate in Rural Generalist Anaesthesia within 2 years of commencing the training. If a Successful Recipient has not completed the anaesthetic training program within 2 years and has not been given an extension of time by the TTC-RGA ACRRM would consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether the support provided under GPPTSP should be refunded.

## Complaints about Unsuccessful Applications

ACRRM has the final decision regarding all offers of support. Decisions will be based on the eligibility and assessment criteria, and ranking of the application. An individual that has been unsuccessful in being offered support may seek from ACRRM reasons behind the decision. If an applicant wishes to lodge a complaint or seek further information regarding the decision on their application, they may contact ACRRM.

## Contact Details

For more information please contact the ACRRM Member Engagement team at : [gpptsp@acrrm.org.au](mailto:gpptsp@acrrm.org.au)

*Note: These Guidelines are made available for information purposes only and are merely intended as a guide. These Guidelines do not purport to contain all the information that may be required to evaluate the Program. ACRRM may update or supplement these Guidelines and determine funding processes and requirement.*