



Impact on ACRRM registrars, supervisors and practices and their communities

The lack of information about the change in membership does not allow ACRRM to undertake due diligence on the impact on our NSW registrars' training program, support, or wellbeing for 2022 and beyond.

What is clear is that there will be no incentive for GP Synergy to consider ACRRM training stakeholders or registrars in their short-term decisions about resourcing or support, and there will be no independent governance to ensure that decisions are made in the interests of the entire profession.

Neither ACRRM, or its registrars or its supervisors have been consulted in developing these arrangements and we have not received specific information since the announcement. This approach lends little credence to the prospect of supporting a 'trust' based arrangement that its registrars, supervisors, and practices will be appropriately supported.

The proposal does not indicate that any guarantees exist that ACRRM supervisors and their practices will have a registrar allocated to them. ACRRM practices are thus asked to rely on trusting the RACGP-led organisation to ensure their continuing access to registrars. The proposal thereby presents significant potential impacts on rural and remote communities reliant on FACRRM managed practices and supervisors.

ACRRM registrars, while a minority due to the government imposed AGPT quota, nonetheless represent 10% of rural doctors on the program, and our Fellows are unequalled in their commitment to serving rural and remote areas. These doctors and their training practices are vital to the continuity of services in rural and remote areas of NSW. The College will fight to ensure the new arrangements enable their continued support.

Process transparency and national planning

The lack of transparency around the proposal has significantly interrupted AGPT transition planning and presents a barrier to the collaborative approaches that were being planned.

The GP Colleges have been part of an agreed national process working towards transition of AGPT to both colleges. Thousands of people-hours have been spent working on a national plan. GP Synergy and the RACGP participated in the process of transition planning around structures,

funding, and collaboration, without disclosing that they were undertaking discussions toward a different proposal. All other organisations have acted in good faith in the expectation that all parties were working together. This group includes the Department of Health, GPSA, GPRA, RDAA, AMA, AIDA, other RTOs and ACRRM.

Impacts of process timing

The timing of the EGM is of concern. ACRRM has formally requested more information from GP Synergy and the RACGP, and a delay to the meeting date so all member organisations can understand the full implications of the proposed changes. The information has not been given, the meeting date has not been changed and no compelling reason has been given to justify the need to hold a meeting just 21 days after being advised of this significant proposal, and just three days before Christmas.

An important and perhaps vital change should not be rushed. If the proposal is the best solution to maintain stability of the training sector for NSW and the ACT, then the two organisations should be taking time to ensure all stakeholders, including their membership and registrars, fully comprehend the reasons for change. In addition, all organisations involved, including GP Synergy and the RACGP, should be taking the time to ensure that all potential risks and consequences have been explored and mitigated.

It should be of huge concern to all stakeholders that GP Synergy and the RACGP have not provided, as part of their information to members, the risk assessment that they should have conducted to ensure that the decision they have made does not have any negative impact of the sector as it moves forward.

Find out more

If you have any queries, please contact:

President Dr Sarah Chalmers: president@acrrm.org.au

CEO Marita Cowie: ceo@arrm.org.au

Registrar Committee: regcomms@acrrm.org.au

NSW Councilor Dr Rod Martin: nsw@acrrm.org.au



ACRRM acknowledges Australian Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islander People as the first inhabitants of the nation. We respect the traditional owners of lands across Australia in which our members and staff work and live, and pay respect to their elders past present and future.