

PGPPP: Information for hospitals

What is PGPPP?

The Prevocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP) is an Australian Federal Government initiative that provides hospital based junior doctors with an opportunity to experience a supervised General Practice placement as an accredited hospital rotation.

The program aims to:-

- Build junior doctors' confidence, exposure and interest by working in primary care in metropolitan, regional and rural areas through supervised general practice placements;
- Increase understanding of the integration between primary and secondary health care by junior doctors;
- Provide an experience that will encourage junior doctors to consider general practice as a career.

How does the program work?

Junior doctors undertake a 10-11 week rotation with an accredited GP training practice consulting independently with on-site supervision from an experienced GP supervisor, weekly teaching sessions and education program. During the rotation the junior doctor remains an employee of the hospital.

Who can/should apply to the program?

The target group for this initiative is prevocational junior doctors undertaking hospital training, but not yet enrolled in a specialty.

Junior doctors in all stages of career decision making should be encouraged to consider a PGPPP placement:-

- **Those not sure of their career plans:** The PGPPP program can be an enlightening experience for many junior doctors and provides them with an opportunity to work in general practice and to experience primary and community based care.
- **Those already considering a career in General Practice:** The PGPPP program provides an opportunity for junior doctors to reaffirm their decision and to gather important referee contacts;
- **Those not considering a career in General Practice and who have decided on another specialty career choice:** For these doctors, the PGPPP program allows them to enhance their understanding of primary care and to gain a greater understanding of the specialist/general practice interface as the two professions work collaboratively in the care of their patients.

Who manages and delivers the program?

General Practice Education & Training (GPET), the federally funded organisation administering the vocational Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, is the national administrator of the PGPPP program. Whilst GPET is the national administrator of the AGPT and PGPPP programs, at the regional level, these programs are delivered by Regional Training Providers (RTPs).

RTPs work closely with accredited training practices and experienced GP supervisors to deliver the AGPT and PGPPP programs, providing vertically integrated quality training to PGPPP doctors and GP registrars.

In NSW there are 6 RTPs delivering the AGPT and PGPPP programs within their local regions:-

- Beyond Medical Education (formerly GPlogic) Western NSW & VIC
- Coast City Country General Practice Training South East NSW & ACT
- General Practice Training - valley to coast Central Coast, Manning & Hunter
- GP Synergy (formerly SIGPET, NEATS & IGPE) Sydney, Northwest NSW
- North Coast GP Training (NCGPT) North Coast NSW
- WentWest Western Sydney



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What are the benefits of participating in PGPPP...



...for a hospital:

- Provides an increased number of rotation opportunities for junior doctors
- Junior doctors are exposed to a patient's journey before and after hospital care
- Junior doctors gain greater confidence and independence which they bring back into the hospital setting
- Junior doctors develop their medical skills and knowledge in a different context
- PGPPP rotations can add to the appeal of a particular hospital/network

...for a junior doctor:

- Real life experience in general practice over and above that of undergraduate training
- Exposure to a variety of health services from migrant to aged care health services
- Ongoing and personal mentoring by respected and dedicated GPs in the field
- Direct patient contact in a range of primary care settings such as general practice, Aboriginal medical services, drug and alcohol services and community-based facilities
- Enhanced understanding of the Australian health care system
- Great networking opportunities
- Increased confidence and independence to take into future training and work environments

Are the posts accredited?

All posts are required to be accredited by The Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET) just like any other hospital term.

A prerequisite to IMET accreditation is for all PGPPP practices to already be accredited with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and/or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

(ACRRM) and demonstrate experience in teaching and supervising GP registrars.

IMET is commencing accreditation of training posts in 2010. Initially practices that meet the IMET standards will receive provisional accreditation, with applications for full accreditation undertaken after a minimum of three completed rotations.

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What supervision and teaching is provided in a PGPPP post?

PGPPP participants are well supported in their placement with direct supervision and teaching, weekly structured teaching sessions and participation in tailored education programs.

PGY2 PGPPP doctors are required to consult the supervisor about management of patients at a frequency determined between the supervisor and the PGPPP doctor. The number of patients seen by a PGY2 PGPPP doctor will depend on the supervisor's assessment of the PGPPP doctor's capabilities. Initially, the PGY2 doctor will see 2 patients an hour and supervisors will need to oversee and sign off consultations until they are comfortable with the PGPPP doctor's ability. Some procedures are required to be supervised when undertaken by the PGPPP doctor for the first time (e.g. Pap smear). PGY2 doctors have their own Medicare Provider Number and the supervisor shares responsibility for individual patients with the PGPPP doctor.



A PGY2 doctor is never the most senior doctor in the General Practice or in the hospital during working hours and may undertake home and nursing home visits, after hours work and on call services, provided a supervisor is physically present for the first 5 weeks and then only when the supervisor is confident of the PGY2 doctor's skills and capabilities.

The PGY1 PGPPP doctor consults the supervisor about each consultation and the supervisor takes primary responsibility for individual patients, with the PGY1 doctor taking limited responsibility. PGY1 (Intern) PGPPP participants can see a maximum of 2 patients per hour. For all consultations the supervisor is required to attend the consult once the history has been taken and the doctor's actions are ready to be checked and signed off. Interns do not have a Medicare Provider Number and cannot write scripts.

IMET is currently finalising the accreditation standards for PGPPP practices and these will be available shortly.



In preparation for their term PGPPP doctors will participate in an induction program and practice orientation. They will also spend time with a medical educator/supervisor developing a learning plan to guide their development through the term.

During each week of the rotation, PGPPP doctors will receive several hours of teaching which varies according to their level of experience. PGY2 doctors will receive a minimum 6 hours in teaching activities and PGY1 doctors a minimum of 8 hours. A least 1 hour of this teaching will be in the form of a structured teaching session, and the remaining time may take a variety of forms including case discussions, corridor consultations, shadowing, practical skills sessions, tutorials, video consultations and review, etc.

In addition, PGPPP participants will participate in a regional training provider education program and continue to participate in their hospital based JMO education program wherever possible.

What other support is available to Junior Doctors?

A dedicated Administration Officer is provided by each RTP to manage PGPPP terms. A Director of Pre-Vocational Education and Training (DPET) is also provided to oversee the PGPPP educational program and to liaise with hospital DPETs and participants about the program.

Funding will be provided to cover any travel and accommodation expenses required by the PGPPP participant and practices will be funded to provide any required licenses and resources to support the junior doctor during their placement.

PGPPP doctors will have their own consulting room during their placement.

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Where are PGPPP placements going to be located?

PGPPP placements are currently being finalised for 2011. The table below provides a draft list of placements under negotiation. As a result the details provided in this table are subject to change

Network	Hospitals in network	Location & number of PGPPP placements likely to be available in this network	RTP managing placement
1	RPAH, Dubbo, Balmain	Dubbo, Mudgee	Beyond Medical Education
		Sydney	GP Synergy
2	Bankstown, Campbelltown	Bowral	CoastCityCountry GP Training
		Sydney	GP Synergy
3	Broken Hill, Canterbury, Concord	-	Beyond Medical Education
		-	GP Synergy
4	Liverpool, Fairfield, Tweed	Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads	North Coast GP Training
		Sydney	GP Synergy
5	Port Mac, RNSH, Ryde	Port Macquarie	North Coast GP Training
		Sydney	GP Synergy
6	Hornsby, Manly, Mona Vale	Sydney & New England/Northwest NSW	GP Synergy
7	Gosford, Wyong	Central Coast	GP Training - valley to coast
8	St George, Sutherland, Griffith, Albury	Narrandera	CoastCityCountry GP Training
		Sydney	GP Synergy
9	POWH, Lismore	Lismore, Ballina	North Coast GP Training
		Sydney	GP Synergy
10	St Vincents, Wagga, Gundagai	Cootamundra, Gundagai, Young, Wagga Wagga	CoastCityCountry GP Training
		-	GP Synergy
11	Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven	Bomaderry, Albion Park, Milton and other TBC	CoastCityCountry GP Training
12	JHH, Belmont, Calvary Mater, James Fletcher, Maitland, Manning Rural Referral, Royal Newcastle, Tamworth.	Hunter region	GP Training - valley to coast
		New England/Northwest NSW	GP Synergy
13	Westmead, Orange, Coffs Hbr, Auburn, Bathurst, Blacktown,	Cowra, Orange, Bathurst	Beyond Medical Education
		Coffs Harbour, Wologoolga, Maclean	North Coast GP Training
		Western Sydney Metro and Outer Metro	WentWest
14	Nepean, Hawkesbury	Western Sydney Outer Metro	WentWest
15	Bega, Canberra, Calvary Health ACT	AMS, Narooma, Bega, Cooma	CoastCityCountry GP Training

Who should I contact to find out more?

Regional Training Provider (RTP)	Contact person	Phone	Email
Beyond Medical Education	John Togno	03 5441 9300	jtogno@vicfelix.com.au
CoastCityCountry GP Training	Sharon Flynn	02 6923 5402	ccctraining@bigpond.com
General Practice Training - valley to coast	Kevin Sweeney	02 4968 6753	kevin.sweeney@gptvtc.com.au
GP Synergy	Jani Mal	02 9756 5711	janimal@gpsynergy.com.au
North Coast GP Training	Bruce Barling	02 6681 5711	bruceb@ncgpt.org.au
WentWest	Georgina van de Water	02 8833 8010	GeorginaV@wentwest.com.au