FACT SHEET

Remote Vocational Training Scheme

The RVTS Pathway

The Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) offers GP registrars an alternative pathway to Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

RVTS is an independent, Commonwealth-funded program with its own application process and intake quota.

RVTS brings educational opportunities to General Practitioners practicing in areas where accessing mainstream training is impractical or impossible. Training is provided via distance education and remote supervision, allowing RVTS registrars to practice in some of Australia’s remotest locations while training for fellowship.

The result: improved doctor retention and continuity of service for rural and remote communities

The Experience

RVTS pioneered distance education and remote supervision for GP registrars a decade ago. Registrars enjoy the same level of supervision and support as their big city counterparts, no matter how remote they are. 94% of past registrars have gained Fellowship of RACGP or ACRRM, many achieving dual fellowship.

RVTS registrars can be found practicing in a variety of roles, including as Royal Flying Doctors, District Medical Officers, with Aboriginal Medical Services and in private practice. Around 50% of registrars are International Medical Graduates.

RVTS registrars remain in the one location for the duration of their training, so the program is both community and family friendly. RVTS has benefitted over 100 rural communities since its inception in 2000.

The program is renowned for its relaxed atmosphere, high quality training and world-class administrative support. It all adds up to a great experience for registrars.

The Training

The RVTS program is designed to accommodate the circumstances of remote practice and provide the best possible educational experience. Training is provided via distance education and supervision is facilitated remotely. Program delivery is flexible and designed to meet a participant’s individual needs. Education is delivered via:

- Weekly Teletutorials: Registrars participate in weekly, 90-minute education sessions via teleconference. An RVTS medical educator facilitates these sessions with assistance from guest experts.
- Face-to-Face Workshops: Twice a year registrars meet at a central location for an intensive, five-day education workshop that covers topics best learnt face-to-face. There are opportunities for networking and socialising and families can travel with registrars.
• Clinical Teaching Visits: An RVTS supervisor, medical educator or experienced rural practitioner visits the registrar to sit in on consultations and provide feedback.
• Remote Supervision: Each registrar is allocated a supervisor who acts as a mentor, providing both clinical and educational advice. Twice yearly meetings are held between the registrar, his or her supervisor and a medical educator to develop individual learning plans.

Registrar Handbook
The RVTS Registrar Handbook provides a range of information about the RVTS training program including:
• Access to Medicare
• Grants and subsidies
• Part time training
• Moving training location
• Completion of training
• Recognition of prior learning (RPL)
• The RVTS curriculum statement
• Useful resources

Eligibility Criteria
1. Location
• The location is in ASGC-RA 2, 3, 4 or 5 (see the DoctorConnect Locator Map); AND
The location is more than 80 km or 1 hour by road from a centre with no less than a continuous specialist service in anaesthesia, obstetrics and surgery and a fully-functional operating theatre; AND

2. Practice Status
• The doctor must be working in a solo doctor practice, or a location where the medical services would be substantially compromised by the departure of that doctor to undertake training; AND
• The position provides continuing comprehensive whole-patient medical care to individuals, families and their communities; AND

3. Medical Registration
• The doctor must have General Registration or Limited Registration for Area of Need with the Medical Board of Australia; AND
• All applicants must be working in an eligible location currently and remain in that location throughout their training, OR have an arrangement in place to be in an eligible location at the commencement of training in February 2012, OR be undertaking approved ACRRM or RACGP advanced specialised training / advanced rural skills post at the commencement of training in February 2012 and be in a suitable location within 12 months of commencement of training.

Applications are accepted from temporary residents, permanent residents and Australian citizens. For further information please see the Applicant Guide.

Applications
• Applications for the 2012 intake have now closed
• Training starts 30 January 2012
Applications for the 2013 intake are scheduled to open in May 2012. To be informed when applications open, register your interest. To keep up to date with the world of RVTS subscribe to the e-newsletter.
FAQs

How does the RVTS program fit in with GPET and the Australian GP Training Program?

The Remote Vocational Training Scheme is similar to the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) in that it provides vocational training towards Fellowship of both ACRRM and RACGP. Doctors training with RVTS are able to access Medicare’s A1 rebates.

Do I have to move to different locations during my training?

Doctors must already be working in an eligible location to apply for training with RVTS. There is no requirement for a doctor to move from that location to undertake their training. Doctors training with RVTS must continue to work and reside in a rural/remote location for the majority of their training. Advanced skills training (eg anaesthetics, obstetrics and surgery etc) may require a doctor to move to a regional centre for 12 months to gain appropriate training within a teaching hospital.

Does RVTS place registrars in training locations?

RVTS does not place registrars. Doctors must already be working in an eligible location to apply for training with RVTS.

Can I access the General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP) as an RVTS registrar?

RVTS registrars are eligible for GPRIP payments under the “General Practitioner Component”. Further information is available from the GPRIP website.

How much does it cost to join the RVTS program?

The RVTS program is funded by the Commonwealth. It is limited to an intake of 22 doctors per year (Nationally).

Can I get recognition of prior learning?

The Remote Vocational Training Scheme provides vocational training towards Fellowship of both ACRRM and RACGP. Doctors can apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL) to either or both Colleges. RACGP provides RPL of up to eighteen months and ACRRM provides RPL of up to two years.

How long will it take for me to train with RVTS?

The RVTS is a four year training program. Recognition of prior learning is determined on an individual basis and may shorten training time.

At what stage in my training can I undertake RACGP assessment?

Registrars must have completed at least 12 months of training with RVTS before being eligible to enrol in the FRACGP exam.

When am I eligible to undertake assessment for FACRRM?

The ACRRM assessment program is made up of a number of components which can be undertaken at various stages during training:

- Clinical Skills Logbook - progressively
- Summative Multi Source Feedback - any time after 24 months of completed training
- Summative MiniCEX - any time after 24 months of completed training
- MCQ - any time after 12 months of completed training
- SiAMPS - can be attempted in year 3 or 4 of training.
The information provided in this fact sheet has been taken from the Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) website. Whilst all care has been taken in preparing this document, queries should be placed directly with RVTS as this information is subject to change without notice. Current as at July 2011.