

Rural Generalist Pathway

Rural Health West has been funded by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS) to establish a framework for the Rural Generalist Pathway (RGP) in Western Australia, for implementation in 2009.

Rural Health West, in partnership with key organisations, completed a consultation in 2007 liaising with organisations and groups to establish a framework to develop a Rural Generalist Training Pathway in Western Australia.

Over the next twelve months the aim of the project is to establish the RGP in Western Australia, with implementation in January 2009. Given the considerable investment and infrastructure already injected by participating organisations into education and training, curriculum development and accreditation and standards within the regions, a collaborative approach will be developed to implement the model. Participating organisations include WACHS, Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia (PMCWA), Rural Clinical School Western Australia (RCSWA), and Western Australian General Practice Education and Training (WAGPET).

Regional visits will be undertaken in Bunbury, Albany, Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie in early 2008, to review existing infrastructure and the training and supervision already provided through other programs. The consultation will identify the sites to be established as RGP training centres which demonstrate significant exposure to clinical activity and capacity to expand on training and supervision. Subsequent sites will be developed in the remaining regional centres from 2010.



Department of Health
Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Overview of the model

The RGP model is designed for maximum flexibility of entry points to accommodate a variety of medical backgrounds and experiences. Undergraduates participating in the fifth year Rural Clinical School program, who show a commitment to rural medicine, will be selected and fully supported throughout the training pathway. Other students will be identified through other clinical schools and organisations. Horizontal entry into the training program will be available to other hospital or private-based doctors and Overseas Trained Doctors (OTDs).

WACHS will be established as a Primary Allocation Centre and will develop a Rural Generalist Training Unit. Medical students will be able to apply to WACHS for their internship for their first year of prevocational training (PGY1)

and other eligible doctors in their second year (PGY2).

For Rural Generalist Trainees (RGTs), the prevocational training pathway begins on day one of internship. Medical graduates will utilise the RGP curriculum which will include content, competencies, assessment and recognition of advanced prior learning, and will be developed by accredited organisations in affiliation with the two colleges.

By the end of PGY1, RGTs will be eligible to gain their general registration. They can then apply through the Regional Training Provider (WAGPET in Western Australia) to gain entry into training programs.

From PGY2, RGTs will commence their core training in Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics. At PGY3, RGTs will be able to

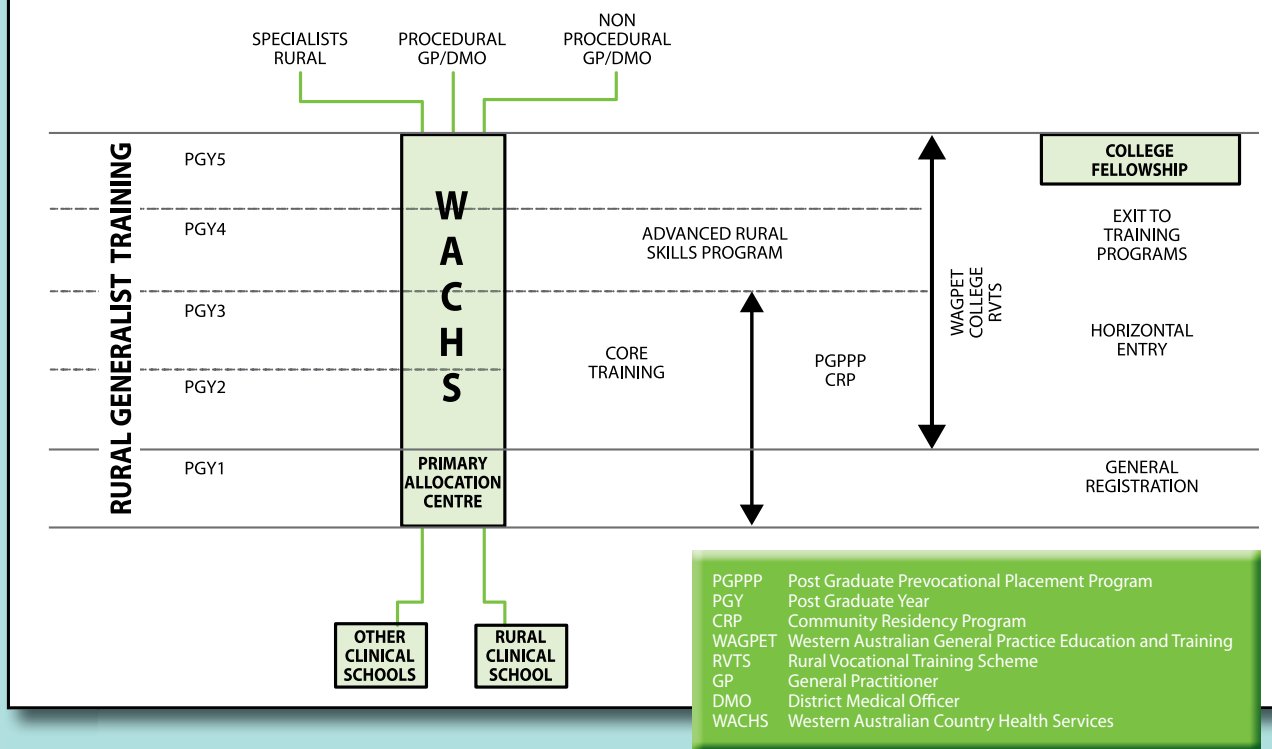
commence their basic training in Obstetrics and Anaesthetics as well as Aboriginal Health and from PGY4 will be eligible to apply for the Advanced Rural Skills Program.

Hospitals providing procedural training posts are crucial to the success of the model. These will be established in some regional centres, though the Perth-based posts will continue to be utilised.

The model will allow for flexibility while aiming to match workforce requirements. It will also enable exit into other training programs, such as specialist training, General Practice etc.

Central to the success of this program will be the support mechanisms that are put in place to ensure junior doctors and their families are supported both professionally and socially throughout the program.

RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Terms of Reference

(based on the Roma Agreement September 2005)

1 Goal

To develop a training program that forms a career pathway to supply the rural generalist workforce required in rural WA.

2 Principles

- i All career pathways will be easy to understand, responsive to needs, well promoted, well supported, well resourced and involve key stakeholders;
- ii Key outcomes of the training program are eligibility for vocational recognition (for the purposes of the Health Insurance Act 1973) and appropriate credentialing. The program is to incorporate training in hospital-based (public and private) and community-based (private and public) settings;
- iii The educational standards of the training program will be set externally by the appropriate College;
- iv The professional standards and vocational requirements of rural generalist practice are those prescribed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, whereas those of rural general practice are prescribed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners;
- v The program markets and provides a supported career path from medical school to rural generalist practice;
- vi Vocational training will be provided by General Practice Education and Training, Regional Training Providers and will be rural-centric;
- vii The program is underpinned by mentoring and individual learning and career planning. The personal and professional and career needs of trainees and their families are accommodated within the workforce;
- viii Rural generalist trainees have priority access to appropriate accredited Health Department Western Australia training positions. (Health Department, Western Australia integrates service placement with prevocational and vocational training in partnership with training providers.)

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