



Rural Generalist Coordination Unit

Rural Procedural Skills Consolidation Term Grant Guidelines

Updated November 2025

Introduction

Advanced skills training (AST) is a key strategy of the Rural Generalist Program South Australian (RGPSA) for both junior doctors and Fellowed GPs. AST covers both RACGP advanced rural skills training and ACRRM additional skills training. The increase in AST posts needs to be matched with access to skills consolidation placements to ensure both consolidation of new skills developed through AST training positions but also for upskilling and reskilling of established rural GPs. The RGPSA provides grants to rural health services and rural primary care clinics for hosting, resources and other costs for prospective medical practitioners to consolidate their advanced skills.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this document:

- **Clinical Lead:** Supports the advanced skills training for general practitioners in regional South Australia.
- **Funding body:** Refers to the Rural Support Service, Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network.
- **Funding Holder:** Refers to the regional local health network or primary care clinic receiving the RPCT funding grant.
- **Primary location:** Refers to the primary site at which the trainee will be based.
- **Trainee:** Is the registrar or Fellowed GP requiring skills consolidation.
- **Training year:** Refers to the PGY2+ training year February to February annually
- **Primary Mentor/supervisor:** Refers to the actively practicing rural generalist with the required specialist skills working at the same location as the trainee, develop and review the trainee's learning plan, provide the primary ongoing support during the trainee's skills consolidation and has agreed to oversee/supervise the trainee.

Eligibility and How to apply

Applications for a RGPSA RPCT grant can only be made by the following:

- A South Australian local health network; or

- A South Australian regional primary care clinic or health service

RPCT Grant applications are a tripartite application between the placement host, the primary mentor/supervisor and the trainee. The hosting organisation is the main applicant, with information contributed by the trainee and the primary mentor/supervisor.

Trainee Eligibility

Medical practitioners eligible to be supported are:

- Rural generalist registrars on a recognised training pathway such as the:
 - Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT);
 - Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS);
 - Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) for their Independent Pathway (IP); and/or the Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS); and
 - Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) rural generalist pathway.
- Fellowed general practitioners obtaining advanced skills to sub-specialise as rural generalists. Including RACGP Fellows who have completed an advanced skill as part of obtaining the Rural Generalist Fellowship (FRACGP-RG)
- Rural generalists who have either:
 - significantly de-skilled in a previously obtained advanced skill and require upskilling to return to advanced skill practice; or
 - obtained a second (new) advanced skill and can demonstrate workforce need for the skill in their practicing location and can demonstrate they plan to stay and practice in that location following skills consolidation;

and

- currently reside and work within South Australia.

Fellowed GPs and rural generalists - who have undertaken advanced skills training and are seeking to consolidate their skills or require upskilling/reskilling may also apply to access the RGPSA RPCT grant where they have the intention to:



RURAL GENERALIST PROGRAM

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL

RURAL PROCEDURAL CONSOLIDATION TERM GRANT GUIDELINES

- Meet an identified community and workforce need (details to be provided upon application)
- Provide quality care and safe practice
- Support succession planning for delivery of health services within a rural and remote local community
- Maintain advanced skills; or
- Seek to support, as a primary mentor future training of rural generalists in regional South Australia.

Funding

Grants of up to **\$25,000** are available for each skills consolidation. A higher amount may be required for obstetrics skills consolidation. Management of the funds is the responsibility of the identified regional local health network or primary care clinic (fund holder), in line with the approved budget and guidance from RGPSA.

Placements may cover multiple health services and multiple activities for eligible expenditure items.

All funds must be used towards training and development of independent practice and are not for equipment or to be used to address workforce shortages in a health service.

Funding Period

RGPSA RPCT grant is allocated for the training period as requested in the application. Should additional time be required this should be negotiated between the fund holder, trainee, training organisation, any secondary location health services and the RGPSA and is subject to availability of funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities of regional local health network/primary care clinic (fund holder)

- All recruitment and employment requirements for the trainee position.
- Ensure all accreditation and supervision requirements are met as per the applicable college and training organisation requirements.
- Review with the trainee the learning plan and how the funds will be used.
- Coordination of the training placement as per the learning plan across multiple sites (where applicable).
- Distribution of the funds across health service sites (where applicable).
- Reporting on the funding expenditure to the RGPU and the trainee's progress.

Trainee

- Work with the training organisation on the development of a learning plan, with identified training needs determined by the trainee and the primary mentor/supervisor and submitted as part of this application.
- Meet all obligations under the learning plan.

- Where a Fellored GP/RG is accessing skills consolidation for the purpose of upskilling in their advanced skill, it is the responsibility of the FGP to ensure they have checked with SA Health credentialing that their training plan will meet credentialing committee requirements for that advanced skill.
- Sign up to the Rural Generalist Program South Australia. Visit <https://www.ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au/> for all the details on the RGPSA and how to sign up.

Primary Mentor/Supervisor

- Meet all primary mentor and supervision obligations as per the applicable college and training organisation requirements.
- Formal monitoring of the trainee's progression according to the learning plan.

Training Organisation

- Work with the trainee on development of their learning plan that clearly states the learning outcomes to be achieved during the placement;
- Monitoring progress of the trainee against their learning plan; and

RGPSA

- Provide the funding as outlined in these guidelines for RPCT training posts.
- Provide guidance on disbursement of funds.
- Provide assistance and/or intervention as required for any issues or barriers for trainees in completing their learning plan.

Eligible items for funding

The following are eligible for funding through RPCT grants:

Allowable items for funding	Registrars (trainee with a college) needing skills consolidation/re-skilling	Fellored GP needing skills consolidation/re-skilling
Salary and wages	X	✓
Primary Mentor/Supervision	✓	✓
Travel and accommodation	✓	✓
PD / training courses / other costs	✓	✓



RURAL GENERALIST PROGRAM

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL

RURAL PROCEDURAL CONSOLIDATION TERM GRANT GUIDELINES

Implementation of funding arrangements

The Commonwealth funding provided to the RGPSA has restrictions on funding College registrars' salary and wages. We suggest the following process for expenditure of the funding:

1. Where the supervisor and trainee are employed by a rLHN, a recharge arrangement between the rLHN and the RGPSA (RGCU, Rural Support Service) is set up to cover either the trainee's time (when the trainee is not a registrar) **OR** the supervisor's time (when the trainee is a registrar),
2. Where the supervisor and the trainee are contracted to a primary care clinic, one is covered under the RPCT funding and the other through the GPA arrangements with the rLHN where the lists being supervised are done:
 - a. Where the trainee is a registrar – the supervisor's time is covered through the RPCT funding and the trainee's time is covered through the GPA arrangements between the clinic and the rLHN. Ensure that the trainee is added to the GPA.
 - b. Where the trainee is not a registrar – the trainee's time can be covered through the RPCT funding.

All financial payments must be auditable. Liaise with rLHN Finance teams to ensure correct financial arrangements are in place. Ensure that financial arrangements are clear between the clinic and the rLHN especially with respect to any GPA that may be impacted.

Applications

Applications are to be submitted using the RGPSA portal (a manual grant application form and learning plan are available where access to the portal is not possible) and must be initiated by the regional local health network or the primary care clinic. Please refer to the RGPSA TMS User Guide for instruction on how to complete the application.

You can access the RGPSA portal via <https://www.ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au/rgpsa-tms-portal>

Or visit the Sign-up and RGPSA TMS Portal access page on the [RGPSA Website](#)

Trainees

The trainee should work with their primary training location health service or primary care clinic to develop skills consolidation placement and RGPSA RPCT grant application. Your GP college may also be able to assist with development of the learning plan. Please contact the RGCU to discuss your

needs and for assistance. Please note there are limitations on skills consolidation grants and will be available until the budget allocation is exhausted.

Assessment Criteria

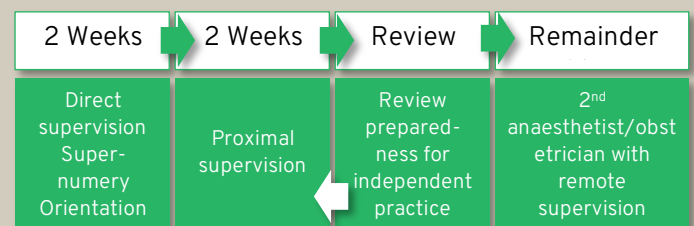
Each application will be assessed on a case by case basis. Assessment criteria include:

- Community need for the skill set;
- Trainee's training requirements and commitment to working in regional South Australia;
- Overall medical workforce skills needs for regional South Australia;
- Proposed planned funding expenditure

Learning Plan Details

The learning plan details should outline how the training will progress, supervision structure and review timelines to work towards independent practice and should be submitted on the learning plan template.

Example of timeline for a learning plan:



Further information

Visit the RGPSA website for further information about the RGPSA and rural generalism in South Australia:

<https://www.ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au>

Further information can also be obtained by speaking to the RGPSA's Rural Generalist Lead and Advisors or the Rural Support Service's Trainee Medical Officer Unit:

- RG Lead – Dr Mike Beckoff
- RG Advisor Emergency – Dr Angela Travis
- RG Advisor Anaesthetics – Dr Pete Gilchrist
- RG Advisor Obstetrics – Dr Kris Bascomb
- TMO Manager – Kylee Nuss

Email health.SARuralGeneralistTraining@sa.gov.au to set up a time to discuss your needs.