



Rural Generalist Coordination Unit

2023-24 Scholarships and Training Support Guidelines

July 2023

Introduction

The Rural Generalist Program South Australian (RGPSA) was introduced for the commencement of the 2021 training year and aims to coordinate and build on existing structures and services for the delivery of training.

The RGPSA responds to the Australian Government's Stronger Rural Health Strategy for the National Rural Generalist Pathway and the requirement for the implementation of Rural Generalist Coordination Units in each state and territory, linked to Commonwealth funding.

The RGPSA seeks to align with the National Rural Generalist Pathway, noting that South Australia has a range of variables that need to be considered, such as state junior medical workforce influences, the construct of rural postgraduate medical training programs and the unique geographical and demographical make up of SA.

Supporting Rural Medical Training in South Australia

Supporting rural junior doctors and Fellowed GPs with access to further training including advanced or additional skills, as well as upskilling and learning opportunities, is a key strategy of the RGPSA. To support access, the RGPSA is offering funding for junior doctors and Fellowed GPs to access a range of courses including covering course fees. Funding is capped at a maximum of \$5,000 (see further information below).

These guidelines are primarily aimed to support achievement of emergency medicine and obstetric qualifications but other training will be considered to increase the skills base of rural GPs in South Australia.

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
- Primary location: refers to the primary site at which the trainee will be based
- Trainee: is the registrar or Fellowed GP undertaking training
- Training year: refers to the PGY2+ training year February to February annually
- Supervisor: the doctor providing supervision during the training period. They may be a GP proceduralist or a visiting specialist in the health service



- Primary Mentor: refers to the actively practicing rural generalist with the required specialist skills (Rural Generalist Emergency Medicine) who will be working at the same location as the trainee during their training; and
 - has agreed to oversee/supervise the trainee's training including the development and review of their learning plan; and
 - is the primary ongoing support person during the trainee's training.
- Training Organisation: The organisation that provides the training for the trainee. This may include Felloved GPs or registrars with ACRRM or RACGP-RG.

Eligibility

Support under the RGPSA's Scholarships and Training Support is available for medical practitioners where they are:

- living and working in a rural community MMM 3 -7 locations; and are a
- South Australian rural prevocational trainee, or
- South Australian rural generalist registrars or Felloved GP with ACRRM or RACGP-RG

Requirements

RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support applications will be required to:

- Identify the training course or qualification and support required for the trainee to be able to complete the course or qualification and the funding sought for each; and
- Identify in which community the trainee intends to practice their skills during and/or following the training.

Funding

Scholarships and Training Support may cover multiple activities and should be applied for before the commencement of the training activity. All funds must be used towards activities for training and development and are not to be used to address workforce shortages in a health service

Scholarship and Training Support funding is capped at a maximum of \$5,000 excluding GST per applicant per financial year, and may include multiple eligible funding items up to the maximum. Where a course or course package exceeds \$5,000 excluding GST, the successful applicant will need to cover the difference i.e. the total reimbursement from the RGPSA, if the funding request is accepted, will be \$5,000 excluding GST.

Eligible funding items:

Funding accessed via the RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support can be utilised for the following expenses:

- Course fees for Emergency Medicine Certificate or Diploma and associated ACEM training requirements i.e. ALS2, PALS and ETM or equivalent.
- Course fees to support achievement or maintenance of Obstetric qualifications



- Other emergency related short course may also be considered in special circumstances
- Payment to a health service for supervision e.g. where no other training program funding is already being accessed to provide supervision to the trainee
- Other courses may be considered on a case by case basis and subject to funding availability

Funding payments

RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support funds will be paid as follows:

For trainees:

- following submission of the application form and notification that the trainee has been granted funding for the course(s) applied for (successful applicants)
- reimbursement of training costs following submission of receipts and completion of short course; and/or
- reimbursement of enrolment fees for qualification e.g. EMC/EMD following submission of receipts and commencement of training.

For other supports:

Access to FACEM supervision for attainment of EMC/EMD: The RGPU will contact you to discuss FACEM supervision needs where this is not available at your usual place of work.

Eligible Course Examples

Rural Emergency Skills Program (RESP)

The Rural Doctors Workforce Agency provides funding for RESP courses including Critical Care, Paediatrics, Anaesthetics, Obstetrics and Fetal Surveillance Education Program. Visit <https://www.ruraldoc.com.au/RESP> for information about RDWA RESP funded courses.

RGPSA Scholarship example:

Common courses	Training Organisation / College	*Approximate Cost	Other information
Emergency Medicine Certificate (does not include additional cost for ALS)	Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM)	\$2,678	Eligibility: PGY2+ FACEM supervision - 80 hours for EMC and 160 hours for EMD.
Emergency Medicine Diploma (does not include additional cost for ALS, APLS, ETM)	See ACEM for current pricing	\$5,356 EMC/EMD \$2,678 EMD only	Check ACEM eligibility requirements. See appendix 1 for EMC/EMD accredited rural training sites with Supervision capacity.
Certificate of Women's Health (CWH)	RANZCOG	\$1,444.00 \$789.00	CWH 3 month minimum Examination fee



Common courses	Training Organisation / College	*Approximate Cost	Other information
Diploma of RANZCOG (DRANZCOG)	See RANZCOG for current pricing	\$1,444.00	DRANZCOG Only
		\$2,888.00	DRANZCOG & CWH
		\$1,052.00	6 months minimum Examination fee
Advanced Diploma of RANZCOG (DRANZCOG Adv.)		\$1,444.00	DRANZCOG Adv. Only
		\$2,888.00	6 months minimum
		\$4,332.00	DRANZCOG Adv./DRANZCOG
		\$2,971.00	DRANZCOG Adv./ DRANZCOG/ CWH 12 months Examination fee

Short course examples:

Common courses	*Approximate Cost
Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2)	\$1,545.00
Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS)	\$2,500.00
Emergency Trauma Management (ETM)	\$2,950.00
Bedside Emergency Ultrasound	\$2,300.00
Maternity Emergency Care	\$950.00
Introduction to Obstetric Ultrasound 3 days	\$3,300.00

Notes:

*Approximate costs may be inclusive or exclusive of GST, please check with the training organisation if GST has been applied.

Costs are indicative only and will vary between providers and courses. Funding is capped at a maximum of \$5,000 exclusive of GST.



Responsibilities

Trainee

- Attend and participate in the funded training course or qualification to the best of their ability;
- Meet all obligations and course work as required; and
- 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.
- Not access professional development reimbursement when accessing RGPSA scholarship funding, except when covering costs above the \$5,000 cap value.
- Submit all receipts and reimbursement requests within 1 month of completing each training component

RGCU

- Provide the funding as outlined in these Scholarships and Training Support guidelines (capped at a maximum of \$5,000 exclusive of GST);
- Negotiate and support, where relevant, for trainee to access to FACEM supervision; and
- Provide assistance and/or intervention as required for any issues or barriers for trainees in completing their course.

Applications

Applications are to be submitted using the RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support application form.

The RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support Guidelines and application forms can be found on the RGPSA website <https://www.ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au/resources/scholarships-and-grants/>

Trainees

Applications for Scholarships and Training Support must be submitted prior to commencement of the training course or qualification.

Support can be provided by the RGCU through the RGPSA Rural Generalist Clinical Lead and Advisors for general advice and to assist with the identification of suitable placement sites, where applicable.

The trainee should work with their training organisation, college and primary location health service to develop suitable placement for a Scholarships and Training Support application, where applicable. Please contact the RGCU to discuss your needs and for assistance.

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
- Funding availability



Learning Plan Details – qualifications

The Learning Plan details should outline how the training will progress, the supervision structure and review timelines to complete the qualification.

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 Clinical Lead and Advisors or the Rural Support Service's Trainee Medical Officer Unit.

For clinical information around training contact the relevant Clinical Lead or Advisor:

- General clinical enquiries: RG Clinical Lead – Dr Mike Beckoff
- EMC and EMD related enquiries: RG Emergency Advisor – Dr Angela Travis
- RG Anaesthetics Advisor – Dr Pete Gilchrist
- RG Obstetrics Advisor – Dr Kris Bascomb

For administrative enquiries, please request contact with:

- TMO Manager – Kylee Nuss

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

Application Submissions

Applications for scholarships are open on an ongoing basis until all funding has been allocated.

Submit applications and learning plan (if required) to:

health.SARuralGeneralistTraining@SA.gov.au.

The RGPSA reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time.



Appendix 1:

Rural accredited training sites with supervision capacity

Emergency Medicine Certificate (EMC) and Diploma (EMD): The below sites can meet the 80hrs (Certificate) and 160hrs (Diploma) of FACEM supervision with an EMC/EMD Supervisor on site. Where other sites are chosen and cannot meet the above supervision requirements locally, the trainee will need to relocate for this component to be able to complete the qualification. Support for relocation and identification of a suitable site can be provided. Please discuss your needs with the RGPU.

Rural Site	Qualification suitability	Supervision capacity
Mt Barker District Soldiers Memorial Hospital – Emergency Department	EMC	1.0 FTE FACEM from 1 st April 2022
	EMD	
Mt Gambier Hospital and Health Service – Emergency Department	EMC	1.0 FTE FACEM
	EMD	TBC
Riverland General Hospital – Emergency Department	EMC	FTE FACEM
	EMD	
Southern Fleurieu Health Service – Emergency Department	EMC	2 FTE non-FACEM EMC/EMD Supervisors
	EMD	FTE FACEM coming soon