



Rural Generalist Coordination Unit

Scholarships and Training Support Guidelines

Updated July 2026

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 \$3,500 excluding GST (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.

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 (except where they are undertaking advanced skill training in metropolitan Adelaide toward a Rural Generalist Fellowship); and are a
- South Australian rural prevocational trainee, or
- South Australian rural generalist registrars or Fellowed GP with ACRRM or RACGP-RG



Requirements

RGPSA Scholarships and Training Support applications will be required to:

- Identify the
 - training course or qualification,
 - support required for the trainee to be able to complete the course or qualification, and
 - amount of 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 rural training 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 \$3,500 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 \$3,500 excluding GST, the successful applicant will need to cover the cost difference above \$3,500 excluding GST.

Professional development provisions under the SASMOEA must not be accessed for any activity being funded through RGPSA Scholarship and Training Support grants, except to cover a cost difference.

Applications must be submitted prior to commencement of the training course or qualification.

Eligible funding items:

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

- Course fees for Associateships in Emergency Medicine and associated ACEM training requirements i.e. ALS2, PALS and ETM or equivalent.
- Course fees to support achievement or maintenance of Obstetric RG qualifications
- Other emergency related short course will also be considered
- Other courses will be considered on a case by case basis and subject to funding availability
- Travel support to attend a training course related to the RG training pathway.

Funding payments

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

For trainees:

- following notification of approved application, and
- reimbursement of training costs following submission of receipts and completion of short course; and/or
- reimbursement of enrolment fees for qualification, submission of receipts and commencement of training.



Applications

Applications are to be submitted through the RGPSA Training Management System portal via the RGPSA website - <https://www.ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au/sign-up-portal/>

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

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

If you need support accessing the portal please contact us via:

health.SARuralGeneralistTraining@SA.gov.au.

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

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

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
- Be signed 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 \$3,500 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 \$3,500 exclusive of GST);
- Negotiate and support, where relevant, and
- Provide assistance and/or intervention as required for any issues or barriers for trainees in completing their course.



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:

- RG Education Coordinator – Andrew Dean

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