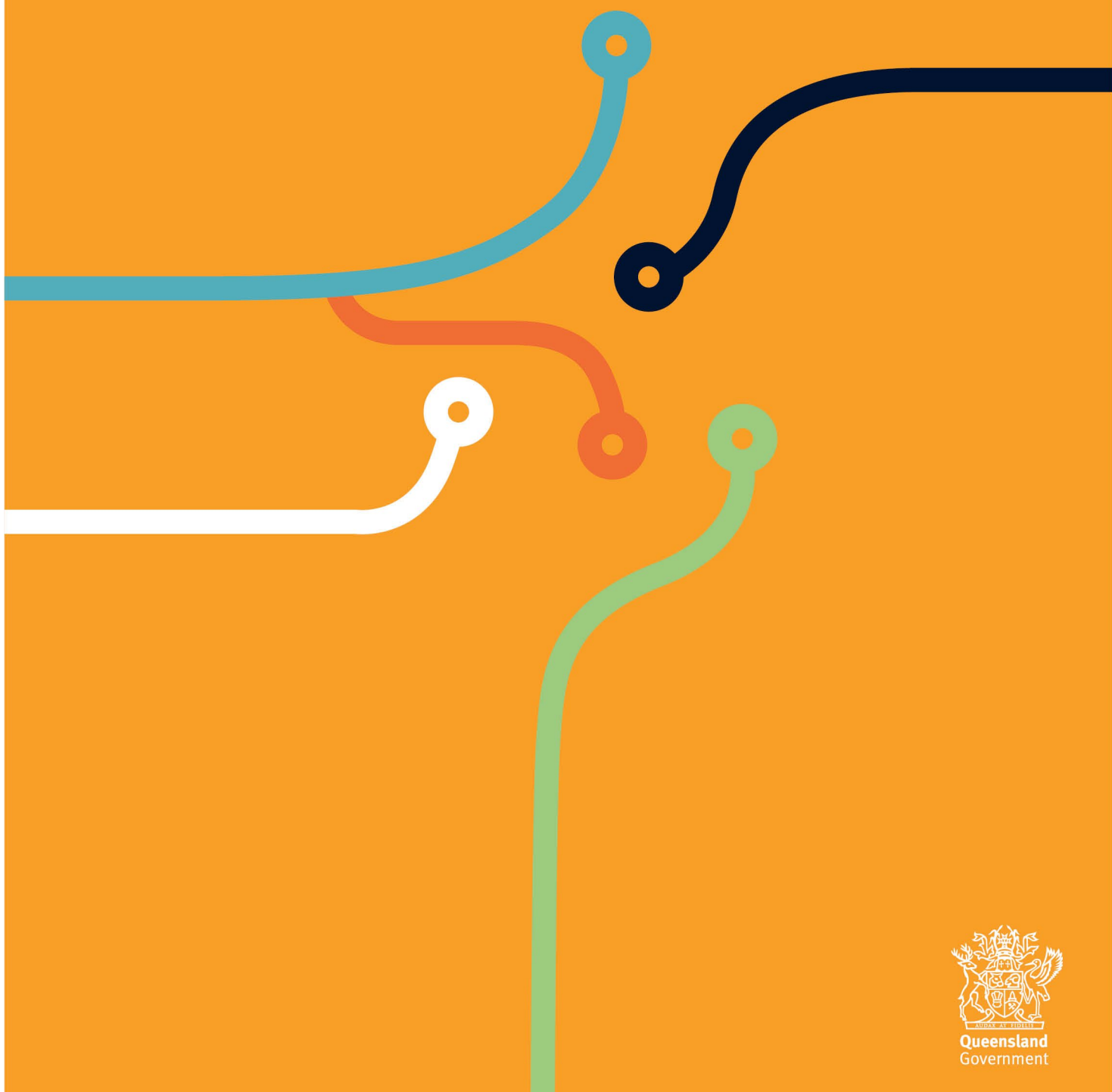


**Queensland Rural
Generalist Pathway**

find your calling 

Orientation handbook

Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway



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Welcome

Welcome to the Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway! Congratulations on your recent graduation and upcoming commencement as an intern.

We are here to support you to navigate your career in rural medicine. This handbook contains important information to be aware of as you begin your training. You should also refer to our [website](#) for useful information and contacts.

Who is a rural generalist?

A rural generalist is a medical practitioner who is trained to meet the current and future healthcare needs of Australian rural and remote communities in a sustainable and cost-effective way. As well as providing comprehensive general practice and emergency care, rural generalists also have training in additional skills.

What do we offer?

Advisory and support services

Our team will support you during your training and beyond. We work in consultation with leading training partners. Our experienced team includes practising rural generalists, staff specialists, rural medical academics and administration staff. We are passionate and dedicated to preparing you for the adventures and challenges of life as a rural generalist. We look forward to working with you.

A Rural Generalist Training Advisor (RGTA) is allocated to each of our prevocational training hospitals as outlined below. Allocations may change (e.g. during periods of extended leave). We will let you know if any changes affect you.

RGTA	Hospital
Dr Claudia Collins	Bundaberg, Hervey Bay
Dr James Telfer	Caboolture, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe
Dr Natasha Coventry	Cairns
Dr Leanne Browning	Toowoomba
Dr Michael Clements	Mackay, Redland
Dr Felicity Constable	Rockhampton, Ipswich
Dr Cameron Bardsley	Mount Isa, Townsville

Your first face-to-face contact with your RGTA will be at your initial career planning interview (CPI), which usually takes place by the end of March. Your RGTA will meet you at your training hospital during rostered hours for a chat. They are interested in learning more about what you want your rural generalist career to look like and how to tailor support to help you get there. We'll be in contact soon to schedule a suitable time for this if we haven't already.

Read through this handbook before your first interview as it may help to answer your initial questions and help you get the most out of your one-on-one time with your RGTA. Your second CPI will take place later in the year, usually around September/October.

We recognise that the transition from medical student to intern is a steep learning curve and we encourage you to call on those around you, including us, to help get you through. There are a range of great wellness and self-care resources available online, including on our [blog](#).

These articles were written by past trainees and are a great starting point:

- [Taking time to care for yourself](#) | Dr Ebonney van der Meer
- [What I wish I knew as an Intern](#) | Dr Tom Currie
- [Night shift hacks for junior doctors](#) | Dr Bek Adams

If you require additional assistance at any time during your training, you may wish to access our Trainee in need team. This is a small group of QRGP team members who offer comprehensive, confidential support at your request or who may contact you if we think you may benefit from additional support. Find more information in our [Trainee in need policy](#).

Education

Our exclusive workshops are designed to build your professional network of inspiring mentors, future employers and trainee colleagues while contextualising your learning to the rural environment.

Your first workshop is the [Rural generalist trainee workshop \(RGTW\)](#). This workshop runs over 2.5 days and includes group forum sessions, case study discussions, procedural skills stations, simulated scenario sessions and several social networking opportunities. We will cover your travel and accommodation. We will be in touch with more information regarding your attendance as the date of your workshop draws closer. You will attend a RGTW annually for your first 2 years of training.

Advanced skills and vocational training opportunities

Once you’ve settled into your internship, you may wish to consider other training you would like to undertake. We coordinate recruitment campaigns and accreditation checks for a number of [Advanced skills training](#) (AST) disciplines and can be contacted for support in the disciplines that are not part of our centralised recruitment process.

When it comes time to complete your vocational training, you’ll have access to the only centralised list of rural medical vacancies in Queensland. We’re also able to help put you in contact with potential employers in locations of interest if you wish. View [past vocational employment vacancies](#).

We also provide leadership training and facilitation opportunities as your rural generalist career progresses. Find out more about our [leadership training](#).

What are the qualifications prescribed for rural generalist medicine?

To attain a rural generalist training endpoint, you need:

- Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) including certified completion of AST; and/or
- Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Rural Generalist Fellowship (FRACGP-RG) including certified completion of AST.

What is Rural Generalist Medicine Prevocational Certification and how do I attain it?

We coordinate a [prevocational training program](#) that is designed to ensure access to a broad range of education and experience during prevocational training to prepare trainees for progressing to supervised rural practice or AST.

Trainees are assessed against prevocational certification requirements, by completing the prevocational training program, at the end of postgraduate year 2 (PGY2). The table below provides a summary of requirements.

Rural Generalist Medicine prevocational certification requirements	Evidence you will need to provide
General registration with the Medical Board of Australia	The team will conduct an AHPRA search to confirm your registration status. You are required to provide a copy of your MBBS/MD qualification upon commencing your hospital employment.
Satisfactory completion of all AMC prevocational training requirements (refer to the QRGP Prevocational training program) across PGY1 and 2, as well as terms in rural placement, emergency medicine, paediatrics*, anaesthetics* and obstetrics & gynaecology*	Email the QRGP team evidence of completion from your employing facility.

* 10 weeks preferred; 5 weeks accepted	
Satisfactory completion of 80% (54 procedures) of the QRGP logbook	<p>It is beneficial to start logging skills you perform from the beginning of your internship. It sets up good habits for your future training and continuous professional development standards. You will receive an email with instructions on how to access and update your logbook prior to commencing your internship.</p> <p>You need to complete 80% (54 procedures) of the procedures in the QRGP logbook by the end of your PGY2, regardless of which college you want to train to fellowship with. If you choose to train with ACRRM you will receive access to their online logbook when you commence training towards fellowship. Some items may be transcribable from the QRGP logbook so have a look when you're granted access and take advantage of that if you can. RACGP doesn't require a logbook for fellowship training.</p> <p>Take advantage of everyday opportunities to log your procedures. It is especially important that you remember to log your skills at workshops (such as RGTW) as you'll find there are quite a few procedures you can get signed off at these educational events.</p> <p>Your RGTA will discuss your logbook progress at your career planning interviews. You will need to provide your completed logbook to the team by November of your PGY2.</p>
Satisfactory completion of the Rural generalist trainee workshop series	Your annual attendance will be logged by the QRGP team.
Completion of the QRGP Community preparation module	<p>This exclusive module is designed to contextualise your junior doctor training to rural practice. The module includes common scenarios faced by Rural Generalists living and working in Queensland communities, as well as resources to further your learning.</p> <p>You will automatically be enrolled via the Queensland Health iLearn e-learning platform. The Module must be completed by November of your PGY2. The team will automatically be notified when you have completed the Module through the iLearn system.</p> <p>You can also provide copies of attendance records or certificates of completion for any other accredited professional development activities you complete in PGY1/2 if you wish.</p>
Assessment of personal and professional readiness (including clinical confidence and capability; and appropriate advanced skill interest) to commence practice in a rural area.	Your Rural Generalist Medicine prevocational certification assessment will be undertaken by your RGTA and incorporate all the items above, as well as consultation with the Director of Clinical Training (DCT) of your employing hospital.

Remember to:

- advise the QRGP team of any change to your contact details via rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au
- contact your RGTA if you have any concerns with hospital terms or any other issues requiring advice and support
- maintain consistent contact with the QRGP team regarding your career intentions and respond to us in a timely fashion
- consider your preferred AST discipline and ensure you are ready to apply by April of PGY2 if you want to commence your training in PGY3. Some trainees choose to undertake an AST a little later. The QRGP team will provide more information and reminders closer to the time and you can decide what you'd like to do.

Applying for general practice training

You need to apply for a general practice training position with an accredited training organisation to obtain fellowship. You have 2 training colleges to consider in Australia, both of which are responsible for

setting and arbitrating standards for the medical specialty of general practice:

- [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine \(ACRRM\)](#)
- [The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(RACGP\)](#).

Read more about the [colleges and training requirements](#). Remember that to reach a Rural Generalist Medicine endpoint, you'll need to complete FACRRM or FRACGP-RG.

Knowing where you want to train vocationally and what type of training you need to do are important considerations when applying. Your RGTA can help you determine when the right time to apply is based on your training plan. You don't need to have all the answers in internship.

Advanced skills training

You are eligible to proceed to [advanced skills training \(AST\)](#) once you have completed your prevocational training. AST may commence from PGY3, subject to application.

Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway career progression

The stages outlined below depict one example of career progression along the Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway (QRGP). There are numerous, flexible options available to achieve a QRGP endpoint. Specific, individualised career advice can be obtained from QRGP Training Advisors.

View the [Rural Generalist career progression guide](#) for more information.

Postgraduate year (PGY)	QRGP stage	Position	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
1	Prevocational training	Intern	Application can occur in PGY1 or PGY2. If application is not made until PGY2, training will commence from PGY3, unless RPL is applied for.	
2		Junior House Officer	Core Generalist Training Year 1	Core Generalist Training Year 1
3	Advanced skills training (can occur anytime after PGY2)	Principal House Officer (PHO)/Registrar	Advanced Specialised Training Year 2	Advanced Specialised Training Year 2
4	Vocational/ Fellowship training	Principal House Officer (PHO)	Core Generalist Training Year 3 & 4	Core Generalist Training Year 3 & 4
5		Senior Medical Officer - Provisional Fellow (SMOPF) Medical Officer with Private Practice (MOPP) Rural General Practitioner Registrar		
6+	Continuing professional development	Senior Medical Officer (Rural Generalist) Medical Superintendent with Private Practice (MSPP) Medical Officer with Private Practice (MOPP) Rural General Practitioner Visiting Medical Officer - Advanced Credentialed Practice (VMO AP)	FACRRM Fellowship of Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine	FACRRM Fellowship of Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

We expect trainees to demonstrate continuous progression towards the rural generalist endpoint. Expectations are further outlined in the [QRGP progression policy](#).

Get social

Stay up to date with news and information by connecting with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#). We also have an exclusive [QRGP Facebook group](#) for QRGP trainees and fellows to connect and share experiences as well as QRGP-specific information.

You will automatically receive our Pathway Pulse newsletter via email to help keep you current. We also organise meet ups if our RGTAs are visiting across the state and at events when we can, so keep an eye out for opportunities to connect with other QRGP trainees and fellows.

Questions?

Contact the QRGP team on 1800 680 291 or rural_generalist@health.qld.gov.au

w. www.generalistpathway.com.au

Once again, welcome. We look forward to supporting you as you find your calling in rural generalist medicine.