

FAQs - network trainees considering interrupting training, or resigning

What is an interruption of training?

Interrupted training is any temporary absence from an approved training position which exceeds the allowable period as set out in the [RACP Progression through training and Flexible Training Policies](#) (currently eight weeks / 40 working days).

I'm planning on interrupting my training what do I need to do?

You must proactively discuss your plans with your Network Rotation Coordinator (NRC) and Director of Physician Education (DPE) as soon as you are aware of the need for an interruption. Ideally you should communicate your intentions, reasons, and needs regarding interrupting training at least 10 weeks prior to commencement of the interruption.

You'll be notified by your NRC regarding the outcome of your request. If your request is supported, you must then apply for an interruption of training with the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP). Refer to [Interrupting or withdrawing from training \(racp.edu.au\)](http://racp.edu.au) for further information.

To ensure your individual circumstances are considered and your needs are managed fairly we recommend discussing your circumstances in detail with your DPE and NRC before making any formal requests. If an interruption is supported, you are expected to regularly check in with your NRC at least every 6 months.

I want to recommence training after an interruption, what do I need to do?

If you're returning from an interruption of training, you must contact your NRC to discuss your plans, and apply to re-commence training through the annual [Resident Medical Officer \(RMO\) and Registrar campaign](#). Interruptions are likely to result in a change to your pre-planned training allocations.

You may be required to be interviewed by the network to recommence training if:

1. You've been practicing outside of the network during the preceding 12-month period
2. You were failing to perform at level prior to the interruption of training
3. You're wanting to recommence on a different rotation
4. You're away from network training for more than 12 months.

I'm planning on resigning from my current position on the network, what do I need to be aware of?

In Queensland you must be part of the network to have any training endorsed by a DPE. If you exit the network, you can no longer have training endorsed. You will have been considered to have exited the network if you:

1. Commenced an interruption of training that was not supported by the NRC
2. Resigned from the network

If you do exit the network, you'll be ineligible to re-join for a minimum of 12 months from the end of the training year in which this occurred. You won't be eligible to re-apply until the next RMO Campaign intake and won't be eligible for mid-year entry. You'll be expected to re-interview. You can apply for [special consideration](#) to waive the ineligibility period and / or interview requirement. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Resignation from a Queensland Health position may also have implications for future access to leave and other entitlements and we suggest you seek advice from your local HR team with regards to this.

How should I decide whether to exit the network or not?

This is a good topic to discuss with your DPE and NRC. RACP training settings are routinely saturating their exam sit capacity, meaning that there are limited positions for post network, time-expired trainees.

Key advantages of remaining on the network are:

- Hospital allocations are provided in August before other trainees
- Guaranteed training position
- Exam preparation that meets network standards
- Access to network exam and educational resources (CEPP, weekly lectures, network practice exams)
- Training oversight and advocacy from the network team (DPEs, NRCs and Network Medical Directors)
- Priority access to vacant training capacity at network settings

If you choose to exit and find your own position, it's important to have robust discussion with your employer covering:

- what exam preparation you'll receive
- what your roster pattern will be
- what access you'll have to education
- if the position is accredited for RACP training.

If you choose to exit the network, the network is no longer responsible for any aspect of your training and any issues will need to be sorted out directly with your employer.

Be cautious with accepting non-training subspecialty specific Principal House Officer roles. Ensure that the position has been discussed with the local DPE and that it comes with exam preparation resources. These roles often exist outside of certified training positions and may not be included in local examination preparation activities.

Further information can be found on the [network webpage](#) or by emailing Physician_Training@health.qld.gov.au.

Version date: April 2025