

Prevocational GP Placement Program (PGPPP)

Information for Junior Doctors



About PGPPP

PGPPP is an Australian Federal Government initiative that provides Junior Doctors with an opportunity to experience General Practice and Primary Care in the rural community.

PGPPP Terms are in selected Accredited Rural General Practices providing hands-on experience in a closely supervised setting.

For those of you seeking a career in General Practice, PGPPP will expose you to the daily life and challenges of a rural General Practice in a supportive team environment.

Alternatively, for those directing their future towards a Specialist career, PGPPP will provide you with a unique opportunity to further your understanding of community primary care and its interface with Specialist medical care.

This is an unprecedented invaluable professional development experience.

Benefits of PGPPP

- Hands on **experience in Rural General Practice** including procedural medicine such as surgery, emergency medicine, anaesthetics and obstetrics
- **Clinical autonomy** - One on one direct care of patients with continuity of care in patients with acute and chronic medical problems as well as opportunities for preventative care and patient education
- An excellent educational experience with **individual supervision and mentoring** by experienced and committed GP Supervisors who provide planned, structured teaching to support the clinical experience
- Own patient load to **build relationships** and experience continuity of care
- Work with Allied health professionals, Indigenous and Community care services
- Overall understanding of the **Australian health care system**
- Exposure to **family care across multiple generations**
- Remuneration on par with hospital training position
- All accommodation and travel costs will be covered
- Interaction with staff at the General Practice, **learning in teams of clinical practitioners**. (Some of these practices will have GP Registrars as well as Medical Students working in concert.)
- An invaluable educational experience to observe a **professional small business** in operation
- Unique social life in a community that appreciates the accessibility of health professionals
- **Lifestyle balance** with community support in some of Australia's most scenic rural areas

Why consider PGPPP?

I have already decided on General Practice as a career. Why would I do a PGPPP term?

Doctors have chosen PGPPP in order to immerse themselves in GP sooner rather than later, or to confirm they have made the right choice. Experience and Referee Reports gained from PGPPP terms can be an advantage for you when applying to General Practice Vocational Training.

I have already decided on a specialty other than GP. Why do a PGPPP term?

Doctors have chosen PGPPP to enhance their Specialist skills and to gain a greater understanding of the Specialist/General Practice interface; as GPs and their Specialist colleagues work collaboratively in caring for their patients.

Rural medical practice has its own distinctive culture and PGPPP will also enable you to experience this in a supported environment.

As a result you will also have a deeper appreciation of issues of equity of access to good medical care facing rural communities and clinicians.

In addition the term will provide insight into the relationship between the tertiary hospital and primary care systems.

I'm not sure what specialty I want to do but I don't think I'm leaning to General Practice. Why would I do a PGPPP term?

PGPPP represents a practical approach to gaining additional experience for those still choosing to keep their options open.

Doctors have chosen PGPPP in order to observe procedural GPs with special interests and sub specialties; obstetrics, surgery, anaesthetics, mental health, women/men/children's health and aged care.

In addition the term will provide insight into the relationship between the tertiary hospital and primary care systems.

Your questions answered

Who can apply for a PGPPP term?

PGY2 JMOs in IMET Network 10 can undertake a rotation in Gundagai or Cootamundra; Network 11 JMOs can complete a term in Milton.

How long is a PGPPP placement?

In NSW, PGPPP placement terms are consistent with hospital rotations which are ten (10) weeks long.

What hours will I be working?

Normal work hours vary between 41 and 45 hours with the latter including a weekend (Saturday morning) in the Practice. These normal hours include 2-6 hours of paid overtime.

How many patients will I see?

The number of patients allocated to you will depend on your Supervisor's assessment of your capabilities.

Initially, the expectation is 2-3 patients per hour, increasing to no more than 4 per hour during the term. This is always at your Supervisor's discretion. A sample weekly roster is on (page 4.)

Will my Consultations be supervised?

You will be required to consult your Supervisor about the management of patients. Your Supervisor will negotiate this with you during the term (eg. after each session or after complex cases, as required).

You and your Supervisor share responsibility for individual patients.

Are my Consultations billed to Medicare?

Yes. Your consultations are billed to Medicare using your Provider Number which you will be required to apply for prior to the commencement of the term.

How will I be paid?

You remain an employee of your hospital and will continue to be paid and accrue leave entitlements etc in the usual way.

Will I be paid for after hours work?

Yes, rural PGPPP includes supervised funded hospital rostered overtime and hospital call back components.

What could my overtime roster look like?

Typically, a weeknight on call would involve 3-4 hours of rostered overtime plus required hospital call back hours.

If you are working a weeknight and weekend on call you would do approximately 6 hours of hospital rostered overtime per week plus the required hospital call back hours.

NOTE: NSW IMET requires that your Supervisor be called for each hospital call back, until at least the fifth week of your term from which point supervision will be at the discretion of your Supervisor.

What educational support will I receive?

You will receive approximately six hours of education per week which will include an orientation at the beginning of the placement.

A Learning Plan (based on the **learning needs specific to you**) will be developed in consultation with you, your Supervisor and Medical Educator. 'GP Start' (core online GP educational modules) and other resources will be provided.

Structured sessions may take a variety of formats including case discussions, work shadowing, practical skills sessions, meetings, tutorials, video consultations and review.

How does CCCT support and contribute to the Education Program?

A CCCT Medical Educator will spend time with you to develop an initial Learning Plan and discuss the challenges of General Practice relative to hospital based medicine.

A Medical Educator will also conduct a direct observation visit (ECTV) to provide you with individual feedback on your consultations.

What training sessions can I expect?

Topics may include:

- Introduction to Medicare
- Managing depression and anxiety
- Dermatology/minor surgery
- Antenatal care and child health
- Aged care
- Musculoskeletal medicine
- Asthma
- Chronic care - Diabetes/ Hypertension
- Drug reactions & Polypharmacy
- Preventative health/Immunisation
- Consultation & communication skills
- Indigenous and Cross Cultural Health
- Workers Compensation
- Practice management
- Managing patient records

Where are PGPPP Practices located?

In the CCCT region, PGPPP terms currently exist in IMET Network 10 (**Gundagai or Cootamundra**) and Network 11 (**Milton**).

What is CCCT's primary business?

CCCT is an Accredited Regional Training Provider of General Practice Vocational Training in NSW/ACT. CCCT is a non profit company, funded by the Australian Federal Government contracted by General Practice Education & Training Limited (GPET).

Vocational Training Providers in Australia offer training for Fellowships of both the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Where to from here?

If you are interested in participating in PGPPP or would like to look into this opportunity further, please contact:

Your JMO Management Unit: to express interest in the rotation

Local Post Managers: for additional information

Gundagai/Cootamundra: Associate Professor Graeme Richardson UNSW Rural Clinical School Wagga Wagga (02) 6938 6149

Milton: Jennifer Williams Wollongong JMO Management Unit (02) 4253 4659

CCCT: Maggie Henderson for more about the General Practice experience (02) 42298675.

SAMPLE: Weekly Roster of Activities and Supervisor's Schedule

NB. Start time is dependent on inpatient numbers	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
0800 – 0930	Hospital rounds	Hospital rounds	Hospital rounds	Hospital rounds	Hospital rounds	<p>Weekend Surgery Roster is from 0830am – 12 noon (this day is operated like After Hours with bookings taken on day only)</p> <p>Will do 1:4 weekends in 10 weeks</p> <p>Hospital After Hours is covered by the Visiting Medical Officers.</p> <p>Supervised on call one night per week will be arranged with the VMOs at the commencement of the term.</p>			
0930 – 1230	Consulting	Consulting	Nursing Home Hostel Home Visits	Hospital procedures	Learning Plan Review Consulting Complete and fax weekly Supervisor contact record				
1200 -1330	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break Junior Medical Officer Education Base Hospital	Lunch break	Lunch Break				
1330 – 1700	Consulting	Consulting	Study Period	Consulting	Consulting				
1730 - 1830 (f/nightly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Case Presentation ▪ CCCT Tutorial ▪ Practice is open from 8:30am until 5pm (or until the last patient is finished) ▪ Visiting inpatients/nursing home/hostel patients can vary from morning to afternoon ▪ Times may vary due to clinical requirements including emergency presentations at the hospital. 								