



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

**NATIONAL CONSISTENT PAYMENTS (NCP) FRAMEWORK**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

<b>Specific key questions – NCP Framework – College-led AGPT program commencing from 2023 to 2025</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Who is responsible for the NCP framework?	<p>RACGP and ACCRM are the two colleges responsible for the education and training in the AGPT and will be responsible for providing training information to Services Australia to enable payments once college-led training commences.</p> <p>All questions, comments and feedback regarding these payments should be directed to the Department of Health at <a href="mailto:AGPTTransition@health.gov.au">AGPTTransition@health.gov.au</a></p>
When is the new NCP Framework implementation taking effect?	<p>The payment arrangements under the College led AGPT program takes effect from 1 February 2023.</p> <p>The current Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) will continue to make payments under the existing arrangements until 1 February 2023 when the RTOs cease to provide payments for the AGPT program.</p>
What are the benefits of these newly developed payment arrangements to general practice training in Australia, especially where there are ongoing shortages in regional rural and remote areas?	<p>The benefits of the NCP Framework for the AGPT include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Transparency and consistency of payments to supervisors, practices and registrars for training.</li><li>○ Increase in financial support for training undertaken in rural and remote areas, through an introduction of a tiered rural loading; and</li><li>○ Greater attractiveness for supervisors, practices and registrar to partake in</li></ul>

	<p>training in regional, rural and remote areas.</p>
<p>What are the changes to the payments that will be made?</p>	<p>Payments are currently administered by RTOs and vary from region to region.</p> <p>The following key changes will be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Payments will be made to the supervisors monthly in arrears either to the training practice or directly to supervisors based on individual practice models and in consultation with the individual practices.</li> <li>○ Payments to the supervisors will be validated by the Colleges (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners - RACGP and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine - ACRRM) to ensure teaching activity.</li> <li>○ Payments will be made to the training practices quarterly at the beginning of the training term and in first two training terms.</li> <li>○ Only those training practices hosting the registrars will be paid for the first two training terms.</li> <li>○ Payments to the registrars will be made in advance, and at the commencement of each training term.</li> <li>○ All payments are tiered according to the Modified Monash (MM) Model regions.</li> <li>○ Registrar payments will be activated at the site placement with a declaration signed by registrars at the beginning of training.</li> </ul>
<p>What does it mean for me as a current registrar on the program?</p>	<p>Current registrars will continue to access the same arrangements that they are currently accessing till 1 Feb 2023.</p> <p>The NCP Framework comes into effect from 1 February 2023.</p> <p>Registrars can access new payment levels at the beginning of the 2023 training year, with increased visibility of their entitlements for training in a particular region.</p>

<p>I am a current registrar on the AGPT program. When will these changes come into effect?</p>	<p>The NCP Framework comes into effect from 1 February 2023 with the commencement of College Led training.</p> <p>Registrars can access new payment levels at the beginning of the 2023 training year, with increased visibility of their entitlements for training in a particular region.</p>
<p>What does it mean for me as a current Supervisor on the program?</p>	<p>The College Led training will commence from 1 February 2023, and as such the current arrangements remain throughout the period of 2022 training year.</p> <p>Supervisors can access new payment levels at the beginning of the 2023 training year. Supervisors will be required to undertake a number of activities in order to ensure quality teaching.</p> <p>Supervisor Continuing Professional Development (CPD) funding will be available from funding provided to the colleges.</p>
<p>I am a current owner of a training practice. Is this going to be more onerous for me to get my payment?</p>	<p>Details for the access to payments is yet to be finalised however it is envisaged that the process will be streamlined. An initial registration with Services Australia will be required. The two colleges, the RACGP and the ACRRM, will be responsible for enabling Service Australia payments (as outlined in the framework) by providing training data.</p>
<p>What does it mean for me as a current training practice on the program?</p>	<p>The College Led training will commence from 1 February 2023, and as such the current arrangements remain throughout the 2022 training year.</p> <p>Practices can access new payment levels at the beginning of the 2023 and payments will be contingent on meeting training requirements to ensure that registrars are well supported in their training placements.</p>
<p>Were stakeholders engaged with the Department in the implementation of the NCP Framework?</p>	<p>The Department has undertaken consultations with stakeholders in the development of the framework. Consultations commenced in June 2021 and the model was finalised in November 2021. Stakeholders involved in the consultation process were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Practice Supervisors Australia</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Practice Registrars Australia</li> <li>○ Australian Medical Association Council of Doctors in Training</li> <li>○ Rural Doctors Association of Australia</li> <li>○ Australian Indigenous Doctors of Australia</li> <li>○ Regional Training Organisations</li> <li>○ Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine</li> <li>○ Royal Australian College of General Practitioners</li> <li>○ National Rural Health Commissioner</li> </ul>
<p>Do supervisors and training practices in MM1-MM7 currently receive these payments under the AGPT?</p>	<p>Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) manage the current payments to supervisors and training practices. Payments to supervisors and training practices vary across regions in Australia.</p> <p>Analysis undertaken in the development of the framework shows that payments to supervisors and training practices in MM2-7 regions will be greater than current payments available for training in these regions.</p>
<p>Do registrars in MM1-MM7 currently receive these payments under the AGPT?</p>	<p>RTOs manage the current payments to registrars. Payments to registrars vary across regions in Australia.</p> <p>To address this issue, the Department has developed the NCP framework, based on payments data and information received from the current RTOs across Australia.</p> <p>The framework provides payments for registrars undertaking training in rural and regional (MM2-7) in acknowledgement of the increased training costs undertaken by registrars in these regions.</p>
<p>How is Services Australia going to administer these payments?</p>	<p>The Department is working closely with Services Australia to develop a suitable payment system to administer these payments.</p> <p>The Department will work in collaboration with Services Australia, the RACGP, the ACRRM and other key stakeholders in the sector such as GPSA, GPRA, and training practice managers to develop guidelines and</p>

	<p>further information regarding the how these payments will be delivered nationally.</p> <p>The RACGP and ACRRM will be responsible for the validation process through training data to be provided to Services Australia to trigger payments.</p>
Were there arrangements / agreement put in place already to include the RACGP and ACRRM in the administration of payments process?	Given the transition to the College led training, the two colleges, RACGP and ACRRM, are fully engaged and working collaboratively with the Department on this payment reform.
When moving from a regional MM2 location to a remote MM7, will a registrar receive a higher payment level?	<p>Yes. The payments available to the registrars training in each region have been clearly highlighted in the NCP framework.</p> <p>The Department, RACGP and ACRRM will develop guidelines to address the operational issues which may arise regarding the access to these payments, including any other relocation issues across MM locations.</p>
How can the supervisors, practices and registrars access these payments? Do they need to contact Services Australia to access payments?	The Department, RACGP and ACRRM, and Services Australia, are working closely together to develop the guidelines which will be publicly released and published to support the process and understanding of requirements to support the access to these payments.
Will these payment rates apply to registrars on other training programs, for example, the Practice Experience Program, the Independent Pathway and the Rural Generalist Training Scheme?	No. These payments will only apply to all participants in the College-Led AGPT program commencing from 1 February 2023.
My RTO currently provides funds for me to travel back home from my remote placement for a break. How will this be covered?	<p>Payments provided to registrars under the NCP acknowledges the additional costs of training in rural and remote areas. Payments can be utilised to support relocation, rental assistance, travel and accommodation for education and training activities, self-directed learning support, wellbeing and psychological support or learning materials.</p> <p>The two colleges, the RACGP and the ACRRM may also provide additional support to registrars via the flexible payment pool. Guidance on any further funding available will be made public once the college-led training model is finalised.</p>

<p>Do I need to keep receipts to claim my registrar payment?</p>	<p>Details for the access to payments is yet to be finalised however it is envisaged that the process will be streamlined. Registrars will be required to undertake an initial registration with Services Australia. The RACGP and the ACRRM, will be responsible for enabling Service Australia payments (as outlined in the framework) by providing training data.</p> <p>The RACGP and the ACRRM, will work together with Services Australia and the Department, to develop the guidelines to support the process for payments. These guidelines will clearly indicate whether the use of receipts to claim the registrars' payments is required or not.</p>
<p>As a supervisors I currently get a subsidy from my RTO to undertake my supervisor Continuing Professional Development (CPD). How will I access this funding under the new system?</p>	<p>Under the NCP framework, the RAGCP and the ACRRM can access a flexible funding pool to fund supervisor CPD.</p> <p>The colleges can access funds to provide support for travel costs and a contribution to compensate for a loss of clinical time while undertaking CPD. Funding will be provided according to each colleges' supervisor CPD policy.</p>
<p>What happens if ACRRM/RACGP utilise all their allocated flexible funding allocation, will I miss out on my subsidy?</p>	<p>The derived payments outlined in the framework will be paid directly by Services Australia and will not be affected by the utilisation of funds available to the colleges under the flexible funding pool.</p>
<p>These payment levels are above/below my current level of support provided by my Regional Training Organisation, how do I express my concerns or obtain clarity?</p>	<p>The Department, the ACRRM and the RACGP, continue to work closely to ensure that any issues and concerns about payments framework are considered.</p> <p>All issues and concerns should be directed to the Department of Health at <a href="mailto:AGPTTransition@health.gov.au">AGPTTransition@health.gov.au</a></p>