



Training Update



CEO update

2017 has commenced with a flying start, with a number of important initiatives well underway.

Bi-college accreditation without conditions

I am pleased to report we have successfully obtained bi-college accreditation without conditions from ACRRM until 31 December 2020, and the RACGP until 30 June 2019. Thank you to the many staff, supervisors, registrars and stakeholders who took part in this comprehensive process.

GPRime2 improvements are progressing

To improve the user experience for all GPRime2 users, and in preparation for the next iteration of the system, a number of important GPRime2 improvements have been deployed and further releases are in development.

Our focus is on ensuring improved useability for all stakeholders. As part of this process we have established several focus groups to help with testing and provide ongoing feedback which informs system improvements.

Implementation of cultural safety kits across NSW/ACT

As part of our strategic work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) across NSW and the ACT, we are committed to rolling out the Cultural Resource Kits which were developed between 2013-2015 by the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AHMRC) under commission by the former Regional Training Providers (RTPs).

These kits are aimed at providing properly tailored and effective cultural orientation to health workers and staff at Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Under the direction of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Education Unit, a body of work is underway to prepare services and upskill cultural health mentors to tailor and implement the kits at the local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS).

The aim is to deliver tailored cultural orientation and training to GP registrars, supervisors, health workers and other staff within the service. A technical committee has been formed and piloting is underway with a number of participating sites.

GP Synergy's informatics system user testing complete

In 2015, GP Synergy commenced development on a geospatial informatics system to integrate general practice workforce data, demographics, population health, and general practice training to inform workforce planning and the formal education program.

Our vision is to make this system freely available to other health organisations in our sector who share the common goal of health workforce planning and distribution.

We have completed our first round of use-case and user acceptance testing and there are significant system developments to be released during March 2017. We are on track for the system to be made accessible to key health organisations in the coming months.

Regional team growth

The GP Synergy team continues to grow with a number of new staff joining our expanding regional teams. Across our ten offices, we now have over 200 staff, including 94 medical education staff and 94 administrative staff, in addition to a team of casual research assistants.

If you require any assistance please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

John Oldfield | CEO



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2017.2 re-enrolment and GP term placement

2017.2 Re-enrolment

Re-enrolment for the 2017.2 term will be open online via GPRime2 from **4 April to midday 11 April 2017**.

All registrars are required to re-enrol, regardless of the term type they are entering in 2017.2. This includes registrars going on leave, into hospital based terms and Extension Awaiting Fellowship (EAF).

IMPORTANT! If you were in a GP term in 2016.2, you will not be able to re-enrol until you complete all of your 2016.2 practice logs.

Failure to re-enrol during the re-enrolment period may result in delays to your training.

2017.2 GP term placement

The following information is important for registrars seeking to enter a GP term in the second half of 2017.

- If you are seeking a GP term in 2017.2, during the re-enrolment process you will be asked to nominate what grouping within your subregion you would like to train.
- After preferences have been reviewed, you will be notified of your allocated grouping on **by 5pm on 20 April 2017**.
- You will be able to apply to practices advertising training vacancies in your allocated grouping from **midday 24 April 2017**.

Important points to note about term placement:

- Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) can accept applications from registrars in their subregion, regardless of their allocated grouping. Training in an AMS facility can act as a proxy to another grouping and go towards meeting training obligations. A list of AMS facilities in your subregion can be found in the Placement Portal on GPRime2 under group 'X'.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility as long as they can meet their training location requirements for their subregion and any college requirements (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- Applications for placements must be made through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation will be accepted.

Useful term placement resources

GPRime2 – Forms, Document and Links

There are a number of useful resources available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Registrars](#)'.

Webinars

To assist registrars navigate the term placement process, GP Synergy will be hosting subregion webinars.

To join a webinar for your subregion, simply click on the link below on the given date and time.

A recording of each session will be available the week after the webinars on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Registrars](#)'.

- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney: Tuesday 21 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/565773118>
- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast: Monday 20 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/305835978>
- Murrumbidgee & ACT: Wednesday 22 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/359691799>
- Nepean, Western & Northern Sydney: Monday 20 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/769968789>
- New England/Northwest: Thursday 23 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/217898877>
- North Coast: Tuesday 21 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/652442223>
- South Eastern NSW: Thursday 23 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/836638532>
- Western NSW: Wednesday 22 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/792287905>



Are you seeking Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)? Now is the time to apply!

If you would like to apply to have previous clinical experience count towards your training it is time to prepare your application for submission.

ACRRM registrars:

For all ACRRM registrars ACRRM recommends having your Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) submitted as soon as possible to plan your training.

If you would like to apply for RPL please review the RPL guidelines in the [ACRRM Fellowship Training Handbook](#) and discuss these with your Medical Educator (ME) as soon as possible. The [ACRRM RPL application form](#) is also available on GPRime2.

RACGP registrars:

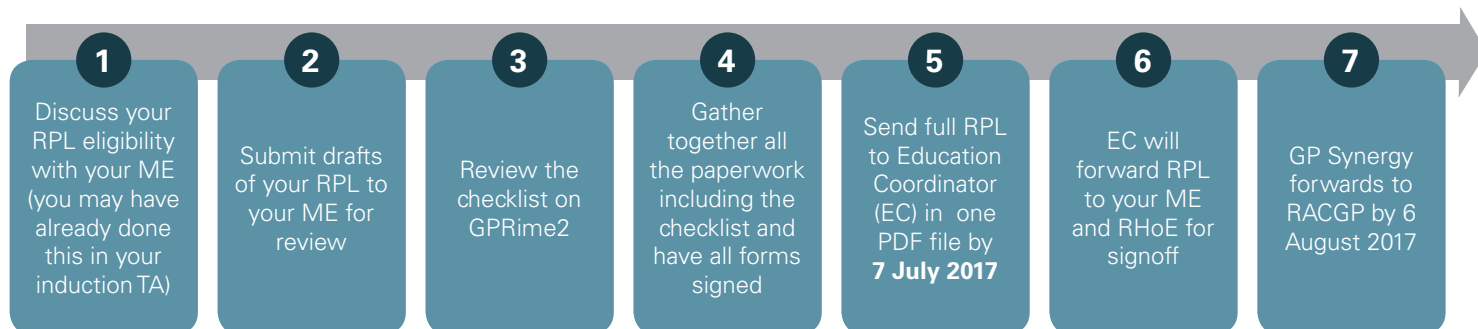
For RACGP registrars who wish to apply for RPL to reduce your training time, you **must apply for RPL within the first six months of training** (in by 7 July 2017).

This means even if you are in a hospital term or part time GPT1 term in 2017.1 you still must submit your RPL by 7 July 2017.

To ensure you submit the best possible RPL application to the RACGP please review the following step-by-step timeline.

If you are a 2016 cohort or earlier and have not yet applied for RPL please discuss this with your Medical Educator.

You may be able to apply for RPL without time credit. You must apply for RPL as soon as possible.



Further information:

If you have any further questions about RPL for RACGP please review the following:

- [RACGP RPL guidance document](#)
- [RACGP RPL policy](#)
- [GP Synergy RPL checklist, guide and application form](#)

National Close the Gap Day – 16 March 2017

Closing the Gap is a government strategy that aims to reduce disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, and access to early childhood education, educational achievement, and employment outcomes.

The Close the Gap campaign is the 'public face' of the National Indigenous Health Equality, this public awareness campaign was formally launched April 2007 in Sydney.

Local initiatives as indicated in the Prime Minister Closing the Gap report 2017 have shown to be the most effective way to achieve change but also highlights the significant disparities that still exists between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.

Close the Gap Day aims to bring together government, people and organisations to share information and take meaning action to achieve Indigenous health equality and outcomes by 2030.



Key dates

27 Mar: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first or second GP terms*

4 Apr: Re-enrolment opens for term 2 2017

11 Apr: Re-enrolment closes for term 2 2017

24 Apr: Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

22 May: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*

23 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2017.2 term

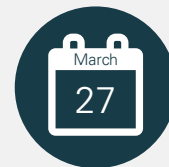
17 July: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*

6 Aug: End date term 1 2017

7 Aug: Start date term 2 2017

4 Feb: End date term 2 2018

*These dates are indicative only and may vary if a registrar is part-time or commenced a GP term after the first week of term.



Policy updates

In response to the Department of Health 2017 AGPT policy changes, the following GP Synergy policies have been updated to the new AGPT links. A short summary of these national policy changes are outlined below.

Please note: Additional AGPT policies may have changed that are not listed below. Please ensure you visit the [AGPT policy page](#) for a full list of all current AGPT policies.

Registrar requiring additional assistance policy

- Embedded reference link changed to new 2017 AGPT Remediation Policy - <http://www.agpt.com.au/About-Us/Policies/AGPT-Policies-in-effect-1-January-2017>

Academic Post Policy

- Major changes:
 - Policy amended to reflect the transition of the administration and management of Academic Posts to RACGP and ACRRM.

Extension of Training Time Policy 2017

- Major changes:
 - Inclusion of a fourth extension, Extension for Rural Generalist Additional Skills Training.
 - Registrars undertaking Extension Awaiting Fellowship only need to be practising in an accredited Training Facility if they require access to an AGPT Medicare Provider Number.
 - Clarified that registrars undertaking Extension to undertake an approved Academic Post is capped at a maximum of 6 FTE months. This means that an approved Academic Post term is to be taken over 12 FTE months as 0.5 FTE extension to undertake an approved Academic Post and 0.5 FTE clinical practise as part of registrars training on the AGPT Program.

Withdrawal Policy

- Major changes:
 - Changes to the number of days for withdrawal, cooling off periods and appeals.

Registrar Leave Policy

- Major changes:
 - Category 2 Leave will now be approved by the RTO unless the registrar is being placed on leave as they have been unable to be matched with an appropriate Training Facility.
 - Registrars will need to work with their RTO to ensure that they meet the Medical Board of Australia's registration standards, particularly with regard to recency of practice, when returning to training following an extended period of leave.
 - Registrars can apply to defer the commencement of training for a maximum of 12 calendar months as specified. Registrars who are not prepared to commence training after this may be withdrawn.

Transfer Policy

- Major changes:
 - Registrars are unable to appeal against an RTO's decision if they are not enrolled in that RTO's training program.

How to access GP Synergy policies:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' (top toolbar).
3. Search 'policy'

The 2017.1 education program kicks off with a bang!

In February, more than 850 registrars entered a GP community placement across NSW and ACT. You might have been one of these registrars!

If you started in a new practice at the start of the term, we hope you are settling in well. Don't forget you can call your medical educator or education coordinator at any time if you have a query or need some assistance.

Registrars who are in their first or second GP term will have already attended at least one regional workshop. These registrars will also attend at least one more regional workshop before attending the annual 'Fusion workshop' held in Sydney each year. Invitations will be circulated for this workshop shortly to allow registrars plenty of time to make any necessary travel arrangements.

Workshops to help registrars prepare for fellowship assessments are also well underway, with dates for ACRRM StAMPS preparation workshops about to be released.

A number of additional workshops for hospital based registrars and, registrars nearing completion of training are also in the planning phase. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact your local education coordinator.



2017 GPTEC

Building communities: Bricks | Mortar | Imagination

2017 General Practice Training and Education Conference

Abstracts open: **7 February 2017** | Abstracts close: **21 March 2017**

Further information will be available from the 2017 GPTEC website in January 2017:

www.gptec2017.com.au



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Upcoming GP Synergy events

GPT1/PRRT1 and GPT2/ PRRT2 registrar workshops regional workshops:

- Western NSW Node 1: 3-5 Apr, Dubbo
- Western NSW Node 2: 10-12 May, Wagga
- Western NSW Node 3: 5-7 Apr, Canberra
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1: 5 Apr, Liverpool | Black Dog – various dates March, Liverpool
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 3: 5-7 Apr, Canberra
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 2: 11-12 May, Wollongong
- North Eastern NSW Node 1: 3-5 Apr, Yamba
- North Eastern NSW Node 2: 20-22 Mar, Armidale
- North Eastern NSW Node 3: 7 Apr, Newcastle
- North Eastern NSW Node 4: 19 Apr, Liverpool | Black Dog – various dates March, Liverpool

Exam preparation

- GP Synergy preparation RACGP exam preparation workshops are now underway for registrars sitting the exam in 2017.1 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently being scheduled. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au

External activities of interest

ALS/EMST courses:

- STEMI ACLS | Various - [More information](#)
- ACRRM REST | Various - [More information](#)

Other activities:

- Cremorne GP Group | Last Tuesday every month | Cremorne | [More information](#)
- Alcohol and other drugs: Referral pathways and treatment options | New England Division of General Practice / Hunter New England Central Coast PHN \ Panacea Health Services | 18 March 2017 | Armidale | [More information](#)
- FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive and Sexual Health for Doctors | 13-14 May & 24-25 Jun & 29 & 30 Jul | Canberra | [More information](#)
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health - Youth Health Conference | 6-7 July | Sydney | [More information](#)

For further information please see the [External Education Activity Noticeboard](#)

Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028
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- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
Renee Jamieson - 02 8321 4164
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Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Hugh Le Lievre - RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
Sama Balasubramanian –
RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Rebekah Hoffman - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the RLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

Positions Vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an RLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following RLO positions:

- South Eastern NSW
- North Coast
- Murrumbidgee and ACT



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