



# Training Update



## Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO) update

The term is already off to a flying start. I hope you have all settled into your placements and are enjoying the full spectrum of what a career in general practice has to offer. I am enjoying the opportunity to work at the Orange Aboriginal Medical Service, gaining lots of experience in chronic disease management and Indigenous-specific health issues.

For registrars that have commenced general practice training in 2017, I can't encourage you enough to look into recognition of prior learning. There are excellent resources available in GPRime2 as to the process involved, so please take the time to read them and if you have questions, speak to your medical educators. Make note of the fact that there are deadlines around submission, so allow yourself plenty of time to compile all that is required!

Congratulations to those registrars who recently sat the RACGP AKT and KFP examination in early February. For those of you who were not successful in passing, use this as a learning opportunity and a chance to address areas for improvement. Study groups are a great way to encourage and support one another, share resources and get through the breadth of content required. Speak with your RLO or use the Facebook group as a way of establishing these.

For those looking to sit exams in the second half of 2017, registration is now open and closes on 19 May for RACGP exams and 9 June for ACRRM assessments. Refer to the [RACGP](#) and [ACRRM](#) websites for further details. If you are unsure about whether you have completed the requirements to sit exams, please speak to your medical educator.

Finally, there are still vacancies in some subregions to join the RLO team. I encourage you to strongly consider this as a very worthwhile way to support your colleagues.

**Dr Hugh Le Lievre**  
RLO Western NSW

## Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO) vacancies

Registrar Liaison Officers (RLOs) act as a liaison person between GP registrars and GP Synergy. The RLO's role is to advocate for, and represent registrars at the RTP management level, and provide input into relevant programs and communications.

GP Synergy is currently seeking expressions of interest for RLOs in the following subregion:

- Murrumbidgee and ACT

Hours and locations are flexible. Position descriptions are available from our website: <http://gpsynergy.com.au/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

For further information, please contact Human Resources Manager, Nicky Doneva on [nicky\\_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au) or 1300 477 963.



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# 2017.2 re-enrolment and GP term placement reminder

## Re-enrolment

Re-enrolment for the 2017.2 term has now closed.

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). Registrars who do not re-enrol may be in breach of training requirements and this may lead to withdrawal from GP training.

## GP term placement

The following information is important for registrars who enrolled to enter a GP term in 2017.2.

### Key dates:

- **By 5pm on 20 April:** After preferences have been reviewed, you will be notified of your allocated grouping.
- **Midday 24 April 2017:** You will be able to apply to practices advertising training vacancies in your allocated grouping from.

### Important points to note about term placement:

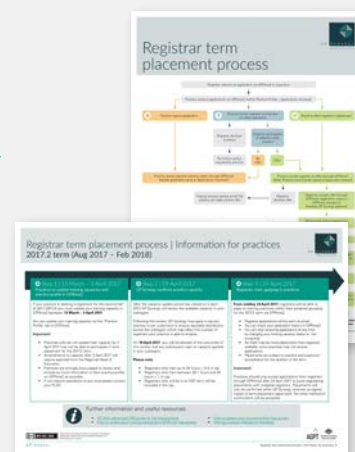
- Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) can accept applications from registrars in their subregion, regardless of their allocated grouping. Training in an AMS facility can act as a proxy to another grouping and go towards meeting training obligations. A list of AMS facilities in your subregion can be found 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](#)'.

This includes:

- term placement webinar recordings by subregion (conducted in March 2017)
- overview of term placement for registrars
- term placement FAQs for registrars
- term placement flowchart
- grouping maps
- term placement GPRime2 instructional videos.



## Key dates

**20 Apr:** By 5pm registrars will be notified of their allocated grouping

**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\*

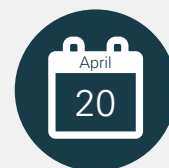
**23 Jun:** Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2017.2 term

**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 2017



\*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.

# New rural generalist/procedural training resources for registrars and prevocational doctors

Procedural GPs play an important role in many rural communities. They are integral to providing high quality healthcare, close to home, for rural and remote Australians.

To help doctors understand more about what a GP proceduralist/rural generalist is and how to become one, we have developed some useful resources including:

- a list of commonly asked questions
- a map showing the locations where doctors can train, and where they can practise O&G and anaesthesia skills in NSW and ACT
- a video featuring Procedural GP, Dr Scott Finlay from Moree demonstrating the role and diversity of a career as a GP proceduralist.

To access these resources visit our website: <https://gpsynergy.com.au/training-programs/procedural-rural-generalist-training/>

For further information about procedural training opportunities, please contact GP Synergy Special Education and Programs Manager, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on [felicity\\_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au) or 1300 477 963.



## AGPT application information sessions in full swing



To promote the opening of the 2018 Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program applications (10 April – 8 May 2017), information sessions have been underway across the state and territory.

Sessions to date have been held in Broken Hill, Tamworth, Tweed Heads, Orange, Canberra, and across Sydney, just to name a few.

A big thanks to all the doctors that have participated in these sessions or helped in other promotional activities to raise the profession's profile.

Applications for the 2018 AGPT program are now open and close at 10.00am AEST on 8 May 2017.

If you know of any doctors thinking about applying for 2018, please tell them to visit the GP Synergy, ACRRM and/or RACGP websites for more information or contact us on [applicant@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:applicant@gpsynergy.com.au).

## Registrar support guidelines updated

GP Synergy provides financial support for rural pathway registrars to undertake ALS/EMST courses, as well as costs towards relocation. The amount of financial support is scaled in line with the remoteness of training location based on the Modified Monash Model (MMM).

This information has recently been updated.

### To access:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Head to 'Forms, Documents and Links' top toolbar
3. Search 'Registrar support guidelines'

Please contact your local rural support officer if you have any queries:

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**  
Kerry Robins | [kerry\\_robins@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Western NSW:**  
Maria Logan | [Maria\\_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:Maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee:**  
Sue Hefren | [sue\\_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
April McFadden | [april\\_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au)



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## Case study: Academic registrar, Dr Rebekah Hoffman

*Experiencing the stress of being a junior medical officer has influenced the research project Dr Rebekah Hoffman is undertaking as part of her academic post training term.*

When Dr Hoffman was thinking about completing an extended skills term, undertaking a research project seemed like a great opportunity to complement her clinical skills.

"I think that's what extended skills should be, they should take you outside your comfort zone.

"For me the benefits of academic training are the options it offers, particularly the long-term career options.

"I had studied at the University of Wollongong and they offered some great options for research so that's why I'm completing my academic post with the University of Wollongong.

"In a week, I do a half day of teaching and one and a half days of research, based at the Shoalhaven Campus.

"For my research, I'm looking at junior doctors under stress, why they get burnt out and what are the protective factors that can prevent burn out.

"I'm also looking at why some junior doctors don't get burnt out – they actually succeed and thrive.

"For the teaching component I do small group teaching in clinical skills and I'm also developing teaching materials for final year medical students," Dr Hoffman said.

An academic post is an AGPT 12 month training term in which registrars have the opportunity to build their skills in the areas of research and critical thinking. GP registrars work with their RTO and universities to learn academic skills through individualised learning plans and mentoring.

Dr Rebekah Hoffman graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS); now transitioning to a Doctor of Medicine (MD).

**Over the coming months, GP Synergy will be featuring registrars completing academic terms across GP Synergy's training regions.**

## Research: Request for your participation

Junior doctors: burnout and wellbeing - 'Understanding the experience of burnout in GP registrars and hospital equivalents'

**Methodology:** Qualitative interview.

**Aims:** This study aims to improve our understanding of burnout in junior doctors by identifying themes about why burnout occurs. It will explore the themes surrounding burnout in the junior medical staff, and identify triggers for burnout and supportive / preventive factors for prevention and limitation of burnout and career fatigue.

It will further aim to facilitate further research into interventions to combat this problem and ensure valued junior doctors remain in the workforce and the rates of dropout, mental health and suicide are reduced.

Participants are invited to contact the investigator to discuss the study and arrange a interview. It is anticipated this will take 20-30 minutes and can be completed at the location of your choice.

You will be offered a movie voucher for appreciation of your time.

**Chief Investigator:** Dr Rebekah Hoffman is undertaking this research to complete her Academic term as part of her extended skills with GP Synergy.

Your assistance is appreciated.

**To participate:** Contact Rebekah Hoffman - [rebekah.hoffman@hotmail.com](mailto:rebekah.hoffman@hotmail.com)

## Attn: Research module reminder

This is a reminder for registrars to complete the GP Synergy online research module:

- If you are in your first GP term (i.e GPT1/PRRT1) in 2017.1, you need to complete this module by the end of your GPT2/PRRT2 term.
- If you were in your first GP term in 2016, you need to complete the research module by the end of training.

### To access:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' in the top toolbar
3. Tick the 'e-learning' checkbox
4. Search 'research'



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## New England/North West registrar networking dinner

To help registrars settle into rural communities, GP Synergy is hosting a series of rural registrar networking events.

The first of these was recently held in Armidale during the GPT1/PRRT1 and GPT2/PRRT2 registrar workshop. It was great to see so many registrars there.

If you would like to know details of upcoming activities, or require any rural support, please contact your local rural support officer.



## GP Synergy AMS Practice Management Diploma participant tops the state!



Karl Briscoe has been named as the most outstanding graduate in the 2016 Diploma of Practice Management at the TAFE NSW Open Training Education Network (OTEN) Student Awards.

Formerly the Clinical Services Manager at Galambila Aboriginal Medical Service at Coffs Harbour and now CEO at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association, Karl completed the GP Synergy/TAFE OTEN Practice Management Diploma for AMS services in October 2016.

The diploma was first launched in 2015 after it was identified that none of the existing practice management diplomas on the market reflected the complex social, cultural, and clinical dimensions that need to be coordinated and work in harmony for successful Aboriginal health service delivery.

To fill this gap, GP Synergy commissioned TAFE OTEN Western Sydney to develop a tailored practice management diploma for AMS staff.

Now entering its third year, 34 AMS staff have been supported by GP Synergy to successfully complete the nationally recognised diploma.

Featuring face to face and distance learning delivery, participants have come from across NSW/ACT including Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Coonamble, Kempsey, Moree, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Tamworth, Walgett and Wyong.

## Congratulations to RACGP award winner: Dr Matt Crilly

GP Synergy warmly congratulates Lower Eastern NSW General Pathway Registrar, Dr Matt Crilly for being the highest scoring candidate in NSW and the ACT in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Fellowship Objective Simulated Clinical Exam (OSCE) for the 2016.2 term.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

For more information see an article about Matt in the [Camden Advertiser](#).



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## Upcoming GP Synergy events

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

- Western NSW Node 2: 10-12 May, Wagga
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1: 3 May, Little Bay
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 2: 11-12 May, Wollongong
- North Eastern NSW Node 1: North Coast registrars will be informed of alternate educational activities shortly.
- North Eastern NSW Node 3: 5 May, Newcastle
- North Eastern NSW Node 4: 17 May, Little Bay
- All nodes: 21-23 June, Fusion Workshop, Sydney

### Exam preparation:

- GP Synergy 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](mailto:shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au)
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently underway. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: [claire\\_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au)

## Far North Coast severe weather conditions

We hope all our Far North Coast staff, supervisors, practice staff and registrars managed to stay safe during the recent floods.

Due to the extreme weather conditions, the scheduled GPT1/2 or PRRT1/2 North Coast registrar workshop in Yamba earlier this month was cancelled.

We are currently finalising alternative arrangements for these registrars to meet their education requirements, and we will be in touch with more details for all affected practices and registrars shortly.

## Upcoming activities of interest

- Cremorne GP Group | Last Tuesday every month | Cremorne | [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](#)
- NSW Health and RACGP run regular webinars about immunisation related topics. Previous webinars and resources can be accessed at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/webinar.aspx>

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

## Reminder: Fellowship assessment enrolment

### ACRRM fellowship assessments:

- 2017.2: Assessment enrolment closes 9 June 2017

For more information visit the [ACRRM website](#).

### RACGP fellowship assessments:

- 2017.2 AKT/KFP: Enrolments close 19 May 2017
- 2017.2 OSCE: Enrolments close 15 September 2017

For further information visit the [RACGP website](#).

## Need some help?

### Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**  
Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028  
[sonia\\_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**  
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238  
[heidi\\_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:heidi_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**  
Kym Cashen - 02 8321 4112  
[kym\\_cashen@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:kym_cashen@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **New England/Northwest:**  
Natasha Junge - 02 8321 4015  
[natasha\\_junge@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:natasha_junge@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **North Coast:**  
Joanne Sayer - 02 8321 4128  
[joanne\\_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:joanne_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Western NSW:**  
Grace Murray - 02 8321 4214  
[grace\\_murray@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:grace_murray@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**  
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149  
[catherine\\_daly@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:catherine_daly@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028  
[sonia\\_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au)

### Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**  
Hugh Le Lievre - [RLO\\_western@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**  
Sama Balasubramanian - [RLO\\_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**  
Bob Vickers - [RLO\\_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**  
Rebekah Hoffman - [RLO\\_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW**  
Jessica Swann - [RLO\\_SouthEastern@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_SouthEastern@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.



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