Explore
North Eastern NSW
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About North Eastern NSW

The North Eastern NSW training region includes the subregions:

- New England/Northwest
- North Coast
- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast.

The training region is remarkably diverse and there are amazing experiences to be enjoyed, in both GP training and leisure. From the laid back lifestyle, to being part of the great outdoors and enjoying the many festivals and events throughout the year, there are many reasons to consider training in North Eastern NSW.

The three subregions offer excellent training opportunities in:

- community GP
- rural generalist/procedural skills training
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs)
- academic GP.

There are 60 towns across North Eastern NSW with GP training opportunities. To help you explore the possibilities each town is profiled in this guide.

WHERE CAN YOU TRAIN?

Where you train in North Eastern NSW depends on the type of training offer you are made at selection into the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program.

- If you’re a rural pathway registrar who is offered a training place in one of the three subregions, you will complete all of your GP term training in the subregion that you have been allocated.
- If you’re a general pathway – composite registrar you will complete a minimum six-month FTE GP term rural rotation in Western NSW, Murrumbidgee or New England/Northwest subregions.
- If you’re a general pathway registrar from another subregion looking for a rural experience, you may be able to undertake a rotation/s in one of the three North Eastern NSW subregions.

Contact your education coordinator to find out more.

If you’re considering applying to the AGPT program and have ties to a rural subregion you may be eligible to apply for subregion priority preferencing to make sure you can continue your rural training pipeline.

For more information about training locations, request a copy of our applicant pack.
“There’s quite a lot to like about training in New England/Northwest! The main thing is the experiences I’ve had. When I’ve had a chat to the city guys it’s been really, really different. They are always really surprised by the extent of medicine that we do. I found it quite difficult to begin with but in hindsight now that I’m towards the end of my training, it was great I was able to learn a lot more, troubleshoot a lot more, I got to learn things that specialists would be doing in the city.

In Gunnedah having the opportunity to do VMG work was great, patients were so appreciative. You’ve managed them in the clinic and if they’ve been really unwell that they’ve had to go to hospital, and you go and see them, they have that continuity of care.

To be honest, before I moved to Gunnedah I don’t think I’d even heard of it. I was a bit wary of going somewhere quite small in the sense that I’d never experienced that. Initially I wanted to go to somewhere a little bit bigger like Tamworth or Armidale but it just happened that when I interviewed with the practice in Gunnedah they seemed like a really good fit and that’s why I decided to go there.

I’ve had a great experience, I’ve been happy with my training and I wouldn’t change it. If I had the opportunity over, I’d do the same. I definitely don’t want to move straight back to Sydney.”

**WHY GO NORTH EASTERN NSW**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Going rural is a unique and rewarding training experience. Who knows how long you might decide to stay? Serving a rural community even for a short time can make a big difference. Even if you do decide to move on, you can do so knowing you made an important contribution to a community in need during your time there.

**BUILD YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

Training in a supervised setting is a unique opportunity to gain new skills in a safe environment. With fewer specialist services readily accessible in some rural areas, patient presentations are often more diverse than those encountered in large metropolitan centres.

Make the most of this opportunity – experience the diversity of rural general practice and build an extensive knowledge base that you can use anywhere.

**BE PART OF A TEAM**

Today, most rural practices have teams of doctors, nurses and other health professionals working together, providing collegiate and supportive working environments for you to work and train within.

**SUBSPECIALISE**

One of the great appeals of general practice is career diversity and opportunity. Opportunities to sub-specialise, provide holistic care across multiple settings, and explore new areas of interest are often enhanced in a rural setting.
WHAT IS A RURAL GENERALIST?
Rural generalists (also known as procedural GPs) are doctors who have a specialised skill in a particular area of medicine. They play an important role in servicing small rural communities who do not have staff specialists providing these services.

Across North Eastern NSW there are opportunities to undertake training in a procedural skill, and for working as a rural generalist/procedural GP.

Rural generalist/procedural course subsidies are available through GP Synergy and specialist colleges. For more details visit our supports and subsidies page.

WHAT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
There are many training opportunities available in North Eastern NSW region as well as towns to practice those skills.

Disciplines include:
- anaesthesia
- emergency medicine
- mental health
- obstetrics and gynaecology
- paediatrics
- surgery
- palliative care.

There are two GP procedural training programs in NSW:
- NSW Rural Generalist (RG) Training Program
- NSW Rural GP Procedural Training Program.

Applications for advanced skills training places can be made from PGY2 and above. Doctors interested in the RG program can also apply for the preparation Foundation Year program from PGY1.

CONSIDER APPLYING FOR THE HETI FOUNDATION YEAR
The Foundation Year is a program run by HETI to provide an introduction to the RG program. It's highly recommended for anyone considering rural generalism and includes education and access to mentors.

For further information visit the HETI website www.heti.nsw.gov.au or contact GP Synergy’s Special Education and Programs Manager on applicant@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.

Explore procedural opportunities for each town in the following pages, or visit our website for maps and lists of all posts available.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR NSW AND ACT TRAINING POSTS

LIST OF TRAINING POSTS AND LOCATIONS

MAP OF TRAINING POSTS

DR LISA SIMPSON
“I wanted a broader skill set, which is important in a rural setting where we do not have specialist emergency or medical physicians. Anaesthetics was a great fit for me and I enjoyed working as an anaesthetic registrar.

Now as a GP registrar, I can complete my GP training as well as anaesthetic lists in the local hospital, and use my anaesthetic skills working in the local emergency department where they are highly relevant.

Being a rural generalist GP is a demanding job and I’ve now got a greater understanding of its demands and rewards and am grateful my family and I came to Moree.

I’ve found GP training to be very different from my anaesthetics work, where my role ended once surgery was finished, I’ve really enjoyed getting to know patients and being involved in their long-term care.

I’ve enjoyed the change after moving from Newcastle, my kids love living on a small property and I’ve enjoyed feeling part of the local community.”
Aboriginal health training posts are GP training positions undertaken in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs). ACCHSs are Aboriginal organisations that provide primary health care and related services to their local Aboriginal community.

ACCHSs are community controlled organisations, overseen by a locally elected board of management.

They deliver holistic and culturally appropriate health care using a multidisciplinary team approach to ensure the best possible outcome for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Aboriginal health means not just the physical well-being of an individual but the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole community.

ACCHSs vary in size and the services they offer. Services generally include primary clinical care delivered by GPs working with Aboriginal health professionals with an emphasis on holistic and preventive care, delivered in a culturally safe environment.

Across North Eastern NSW there are numerous opportunities to train in Aboriginal health.

WHY TRAIN IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH?

There are many benefits to undertaking part of your GP training in an Aboriginal health training post including:

• a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health that can then be applied in an ACCHS or a mainstream general practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
• being part of a team that delivers holistic health care
• understanding the disparities in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health status, and why it is important to close the gap.

DR GLENDON INKSTER

"I wanted to learn more about Aboriginal health as well as culture. I saw training at Pius X as a great experience to learn more about managing chronic disease. After building relationships with my patients I found that I really enjoyed the work, so I decided to stay on for two more terms. I feel like I can have more of an impact working in an Aboriginal medical service than I can at a mainstream practice. There is so much complexity in the health of some of my patients as well as plenty of undiagnosed conditions. I find it very rewarding since the changes you make can have such a large impact on your patient’s day-to-day life."
If you’re relocating to North Eastern NSW for training, GP Synergy may be able to help you with the move.

DEDICATED RURAL SUPPORT TEAM
GP Synergy has a dedicated rural support team providing relocation advice and assistance, pastoral support, and information about the subsidies available through GP Synergy and other organisations.

RELOCATION SUBSIDIES
Depending on the MMM classification of your placement, GP Synergy offers between $1,900 and $9,500 per six months for relocation costs for registrars training in MMM3-7 locations including:

- moving fees, end of lease cleaning, connection and disconnection fees
- travel and accommodation for pre-placement interviews or accommodation site visits
- travel to commence the placement.

Registrars training in MMM5-7 locations can also apply for reimbursement for education courses relevant to rural general practice within their funding cap.

RURAL GENERALIST/PROCEDURAL GP TRAINING EDUCATION SUBSIDIES
GP Synergy provides up to $8,000 for pre-approved curriculum related course fees (excluding core qualification fees) not eligible for funding under any other program for registrars undertaking Advanced Skills and Advanced Specialised Training terms.

Commonwealth subsidies of up to $40,000 are also available for GPs to gain qualification in obstetrics and anaesthesia. For more information about these subsidies, visit the NSW RDN website.

EMERGENCY COURSE AND STUDY SUBSIDIES
There are also subsidies for emergency courses for rural GP registrars. Up to $3000 is available towards an accredited ALS/REST course, and up to $1000 per STAMPS exam to participate in ACDRM study groups.

Access the GP Synergy registrar support and subsidy guidelines here.

WORKFORCE INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WIP)
WIP, delivered by the Department of Health, provides financial incentives to medical practitioners practicing in regional and remote communities. For more information head to WIP.

RURAL SUPPORT AT A GLANCE
There are numerous supports to help you experience rural general practice. Visit the supports and subsidies page on our website for more information.

GP SYNERGY RURAL SUPPORT CAP BY TERM AND LOCATION*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MMM3</th>
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<th>MMM5</th>
<th>MMM6</th>
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<td>$1,910</td>
<td>$3,186</td>
<td>$4,228</td>
<td>$6,188</td>
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*The rural support cap varies according to the MMM classification of your placement and is subject to change. Please see Registrar Support Guidelines for full terms and conditions.
The New England/Northwest subregion stretches from the Queensland/NSW border in the north, to Quirindi in the south.

**TRAINING IN NEW ENGLAND/ NORTHWEST NSW**

There are 15 towns across New England/Northwest with accredited training facilities. With more than 30 training facilities and 80 GP supervisors across the subregion there are many training opportunities, including five Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services offering Aboriginal health training posts.

**LIVING IN NEW ENGLAND/ NORTHWEST**

The subregion is known for its great rural lifestyle. It is a key area for agriculture, mining including gemstones, producing gourmet food and fine wine, and tourism. Aboriginal and historic heritage are recognised throughout the subregion, and there are exciting festivals and events throughout the year, art and cultural experiences, and welcoming communities.

The regional cities of Tamworth and Armidale are the largest centres in the subregion, offering extensive shopping, dining, and arts and cultural opportunities.

There is a network of airports across the subregion making travel to Sydney and other destinations relatively easy.

Joining a sporting team, community or volunteer group is a great way to get to know people. There are sporting facilities and sporting teams catering for a myriad of sports. Whether you’re interested in the arts, conservation or helping out in times of need there are groups always happy to welcome new members.

If you’re single or have a family there are great options for living and working in New England/Northwest.

For more information about training with GP Synergy, request a copy of our [applicant pack](#).

**DR JAMES MARSHALL**

“I grew up on a farm near Black Mountain just north of Armidale, so not far from where I’m now training in Manilla (about 160 km west of Armidale).

I was working in the UK helping run an international health risk management program. After that, I retrained as a doctor with a view to returning to the country to become a rural GP.

I think working rurally is a great experience for doctors in training, as you develop such diverse skills which are so useful to the whole community. As a relatively junior doctor in the country you get early exposure to working independently and utilising procedural skills which help you develop professionally.

Rural communities are very welcoming and supportive, and they are really appreciative of the service you offer, so it is rewarding as you feel you are contributing to something worthwhile.”
**ARMIDALE**

Classification: MMM3 | Group: B

A beautiful city in the New England high country, Armidale is a cosmopolitan university city with an active arts and cultural community.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:

- anaesthetics.

As a regional teaching hospital, Armidale Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists.

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following their advanced skills training are generally limited, however employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Accredited GP facilities:

- Armajun Aboriginal Medical Service
- Armidale Medical Centre
- Faulkner Street Medical Practice
- Integral Health
- Rusden Street Medical Practice
- West Armidale Medical Centre

**BARRABA**

Classification: MMM5 | Group: B

Located on the Manilla River, the charming town of Barraba is a great base for outdoor activities including bushwalking, photography, camping and 4WDing.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:

- Barraba Medical Centre

**BINGARA**

Classification: MMM5 | Group: A

Once Australia’s largest diamond producer, the small New England town of Bingara, is still popular for gold, gem and crystal fossicking.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:

- RaRMS Health Bingara

**GLEN INNES**

Classification: MMM4 | Group: A

Glen Innes is known as Celtic Country, because of its Scottish pioneers, having one of Australia’s coldest climates and its green countryside suggestive of the Scottish highlands.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:

- East Avenue Medical Centre

**GUNNEDAH**

Classification: MMM4 | Group: A

Gunnedah is situated on the Liverpool Plains in Northwest NSW, the rich agricultural area inspired one of Australia’s favourite poets, Dorothea Mackellar who wrote ‘My Country’.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:

- Barber Street Surgery
- Northwest Family Medical – Gunnedah
\section*{NEW ENGLAND/NORTHWEST}

\section*{GUYRA}
\textbf{Classification: MMM5 | Group: A}
As the highest town in the New England high country, Guyra is surrounded by natural attractions.

\textbf{Accredited GP facilities:}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Guyra Medical Centre
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Rural generalist/procedural opportunities}
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

\section*{INVERELL}
\textbf{Classification: MMM4 | Group: A}
Inverell, located in an attractive valley beside the Macintyre River, is known as the Sapphire City because of the sapphires found throughout the local area.

\textbf{Accredited GP facilities:}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Armajun Aboriginal Medical Service
  \item Inverell Medical Centre
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Rural generalist/procedural opportunities}
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

\section*{MANILLA}
\textbf{Classification: MMM5 | Group: B}
Located at the junction of the Namoi and Manilla Rivers, the town of Manilla has been a camping ground for Aboriginal people, a base for bullock wagons and now a rural service centre for the surrounding agricultural areas.

\textbf{Accredited GP facilities:}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Rural Medical Clinic
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Rural generalist/procedural opportunities}
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

\section*{MOREE}
\textbf{Classification: MMM4 | Group: A}
Located in the heart of the Northern NSW wheat belt, Moree is famous for its Artesian Aquatic Centre with its naturally hot mineral-rich waters.

\textbf{Accredited GP facilities:}
\begin{itemize}
  \item Associate Medical Practice
  \item Pius X Aboriginal Medical Service
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Rural generalist/procedural opportunities}
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

\section*{DR JESSICA CHAPMAN}
"I decided on GP because I wanted to live in Tamworth, so it made sense that I was a generalist rather than a specialist. I also love the day-to-day variation that general practice will provide. In saying that my special interest is palliative care and I plan to also practice in that area."

"I'm looking forward to being a part of the community and building long term relationships with patients."

"I love living in a regional area but with the benefits of great food and culture. I like the country hospitality. I also love the events around the area."
QUIRINDI
Classification: MMM5  |  Group: B
Located on the productive Liverpool Plains, grazing cattle, fields of sunflowers, sorghum, canola, corn, lucerne and wheat, make Quirindi and surrounds a picturesque rural landscape.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Quirindi Health Centre
- Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

TAMWORTH
Classification: MMM3  |  Group: B
As the Country Music Capital of Australia, the city of Tamworth pays homage to country music in many ways including being home to the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame and the Big Golden Guitar.

View town profile

Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- anaesthetics
- emergency medicine
- obstetrics and gynecology

As a regional teaching hospital, Tamworth Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists.

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following their advanced skills training are generally limited, however employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in emergency medicine.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Barton Lane Practice
- My GP Tamworth
- NorthWest Health - East Tamworth Medical Centre
- Peel Health Care
- Smith Street Practice
- Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service
- Tamworth General Practice and Skin Cancer Clinic

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Walcha has something for everyone, it’s a gateway to World Heritage wilderness, offers fine local produce and wine, and boasts the most public art per head of population in Australia.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Walcha General Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

WEE WAA
Classification: MMM5  |  Group: A
Wee Waa is Australia’s Cotton Capital, the modern cotton growing industry was introduced to the town in 1960 and rapidly expanded.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Wee Waa Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Located on the Fossickers Way touring route, Warialda is a great place for fossicking of sapphires, gold and other gems.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Warialda Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.
THE NORTH COAST TRAINING SUBREGION

The North Coast training subregion runs along the coast from the Queensland/NSW border in the north to south of Port Macquarie.

TRAINING IN NORTH COAST

There are 30 towns across the North Coast subregion classified MMM3+ with accredited training facilities.

Training opportunities in those towns are diverse with nearly 80 training facilities and more than 160 GP supervisors. There are seven ACCHSs offering Aboriginal health training posts.

LIVING IN NORTH COAST

The North Coast subregion is known for its lifestyle and mild climate.

Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie are the major commercial centres, with beautiful beaches, a range of leisure and cultural activities, large shopping centres, and public facilities.

Major industries are farming, logging and tourism.

There is a network of airports across the subregion making travel to Sydney and other destinations relatively easy.

Across the subregion are many opportunities to become part of a community, whether through joining sporting teams, conservation, emergency management or arts and cultural groups.

Community and volunteer groups are always keen to welcome newcomers.

Whether you’re single or have a family, there are many opportunities for a balanced lifestyle in the subregion.

For more information about training with GP Synergy, request a copy of our applicant pack.

DR PAUL LAM – TRAINING AS A RURAL GENERALIST IN THE NORTH COAST SUBREGION

Palliative care interests me because of the tangible difference we can make to alleviate suffering in people with terminal illness.

Rural generalist training provides GPs with the skills to anticipate and deal with more complex issues that can arise, especially in the context of people with terminal illness who may want to die at home.

It also enables us to better support the local community nursing teams who play an indispensable role in aiding families to care for their loved ones.

I undertook my GP training in Coffs Harbour because of the beautiful coastline, friendly community and the surf! I love it here and would like to stay in the area when I finish training.
Alstonville is a charming hinterland town, its location between the ocean and rainforest, provides for a great lifestyle.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Alstonville Clinic
- Alstonville Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
The nearest hospitals to Alstonville are in Ballina and Lismore. Please see those town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

Ballina is a bustling coastal town, the smaller town of Tintenbar is an easy drive inland from Ballina.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Ballina West Medical Centre
- Bullinah AHS
- Grant Street Clinic
- Tintenbar Medical Centre Pty Ltd

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Bangalow is a small town of Federation buildings surrounded by lush countryside, only 20 minutes from Byron Bay and the coast.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Bangalow Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
The nearest hospital to Bangalow is in Byron Bay. Please see the Byron Bay town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

Fifteen minutes from the coast and surrounded by lush hills, Bellingen is known for its creative and alternative lifestyle, organic farms, and luxury retreats.

View town profile

Accredited GP facilities:
- Bellingen Healing Centre
- North Bellingen Medical Practice
- Three Rivers Health

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- emergency medicine
- Bay Centre Medical Clinic
- Cape Byron Medical Centre
- The Bright Side Clinic
- North Coast Medical Centre

Byron Bay is famed for its beautiful beaches, spectacular hinterland, relaxed lifestyle and creative community.

View town profile

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- emergency medicine
- Byron Central Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP registrars or rural generalists. Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following their advanced skills training are generally limited, although may occur from time to time.
COFFS HARBOUR - TOORMINA
Classification: MMM3 | Group: B
The coastal resort town of Coffs Harbour is known for its banana plantations, mild climate, beaches and fishing. Toormina is a southern suburb of Coffs Harbour.

Accredited GP facilities:
• CHC Medical
• Coffs Central Medical Centre
• Coffs Medical Service
• Coffs Harbour Women’s Health Centre
• Galambila Aboriginal Medical Service
• Northside Health
• Plaza Medical Centre
• Toormina Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
• emergency medicine
• obstetrics & gynaecology
• paediatrics
• palliative care
• surgery

As a regional teaching hospital, Coffs Harbour Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Generally, employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs following their advanced skills training are limited, however employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may occur in palliative care.

DORRIGO
Classification: MMM5 | Group: A
The small rural town of Dorrigo, an hour inland from Coffs Harbour, is located on the spectacular Waterfall Way and surrounded by stunning national parks.

Accredited GP facilities:
• Dorrigo Health and Wellbeing

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
The nearest hospital to Dorrigo is in Bellingen. Please see the Bellingen town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

EVANS HEAD
Classification: MMM5 | Group: A
The small town of Evans Head is a popular holiday resort located between the Evans River, kilometres of beaches and national parks.

Accredited GP facilities:
• Evans Head Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
• emergency medicine
• paediatrics.

GRAFTON
Classification: MMM3 | Group: A
The commercial and cultural centre of the Clarence Valley, Grafton is best known for its famous Jacaranda Festival when the city turns a vibrant purple.

Accredited GP facilities:
• Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Corporation
• Grafton GP Super Clinic
• Queen Street Clinic
• South Grafton Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
• emergency medicine
• paediatrics.

Grafton Base Hospital is generally staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following advanced skills training may be available in emergency medicine and paediatrics.
Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- emergency medicine
- obstetrics & gynaecology

Kempsey District Hospital is generally staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following advanced skills training may be available in obstetrics & gynaecology.

Accredited GP facilities:
- A.B. Surgery
- Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service
- Kempsey Drug and Alcohol Service
- Kempsey Medical Centre
- St Colluthus Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- emergency medicine
- obstetrics & gynaecology

Kempsey District Hospital is generally staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists following advanced skills training may be available in obstetrics & gynaecology.

Accredited GP facilities:
- A.B. Surgery
- Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service
- Kempsey Drug and Alcohol Service
- Kempsey Medical Centre
- St Colluthus Medical Centre

LAKE CATHIE

Classification: MMM3 | Group: A

The popular holiday destination of Lake Cathie, is known for its beaches, surf breaks, recreational boating and surrounding natural environment.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Lake Cathie Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

The nearest hospital to Lake Cathie is in Port Macquarie. Please see the Port Macquarie town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

LAURIEON - NORTH HAVEN

Classification: MMM4 | Group: A

Adjacent to Camden Haven Inlet, Laurieton and North Haven are great locations for water sports including fishing, boating, surfing, swimming and kayaking.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Camden Haven Medical Centre
- Mountview Medical Centre
- Ocean Drive Family Practice
- Your Family Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

The nearest hospital to Laurieton and North Haven is in Port Macquarie. Please see the Port Macquarie town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.
Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- anaesthesia
- emergency medicine
- mental health
- obstetrics & gynaecology
- palliative care.

As a regional teaching hospital, Lismore Base Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Generally, employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs following their advanced skills training are limited, however employment opportunities may occur in palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Goonellabah Medical Centre
- Keen Street Clinic
- Lismore GP Super Clinic
- Rekindling the Spirit Jullums Lismore AMS
- The Lismore Clinic

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- anaesthesia
- emergency medicine
- mental health
- obstetrics & gynaecology
- palliative care.

As a regional teaching hospital, Lismore Base Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Generally, employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs following their advanced skills training are limited, however employment opportunities may occur in palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Goonellabah Medical Centre
- Keen Street Clinic
- Lismore GP Super Clinic
- Rekindling the Spirit Jullums Lismore AMS
- The Lismore Clinic

Macksville is a small riverside town on the beautiful Nambucca River, apart from fishing and oyster-farming, the surrounding areas are known for bananas and other tropical fruits, vegetables, grazing, dairying, and timber.

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthesia, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Star Street Medical Centre
PORT MACQUARIE
Classification: MMM3 | Group: B

This popular holiday destination boasts a great year-round climate for enjoying the adjacent Hastings River estuary and ocean beaches.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Clifton Medical Centre
- Five Star Medical Centre
- Flynn's Beach Medical Centre
- Focus Medical Centre
- Greemeadows Medical
- Port Family Practice
- Port Macquarie GP Super Clinic
- Port Macquarie Medical and Dental Clinic
- Port Macquarie Skin Cancer Clinic
- Port Skin Clinic
- The Good Shepard Medical and Dental Centre
- The Grange Family Medical Centre
- Westside Medical Centre
- Werin Medical Clinic

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Accredited training posts are currently available in the following disciplines:
- emergency medicine
- obstetrics & gynaecology
- paediatrics.

As a regional teaching hospital, Port Macquarie Base Hospital is staffed by staff specialists rather than GP proceduralists or rural generalists. Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs following their advanced skills training are limited but may occur from time to time.

SOUTH WEST ROCKS
Classification: MMM4 | Group: B

South West Rocks is a small coastal town adjacent to the Macleay River mouth, it is surrounded by natural beauty and has an interesting colonial heritage.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Mitchell Street General Practice
- Seascapes Medical Centre
- Trial Bay Family Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

The nearest hospital to South West Rocks is in Kempsey. Please see the Kempsey town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

URUNGA
Classification: MMM5 | Group: A

The small township of Urunga is located at the ocean junction of the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers. It's location off the Pacific Highway, and low level of development give it a quiet and unhurried feeling.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Urunga Medical Centre

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

The nearest hospital to Urunga is in Coffs Harbour. Please see the Coffs Harbour town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

WAUCHOPE
Classification: MMM3 | Group: B

On the banks of the beautiful Hastings River and surrounded by national parks and state forests, Wauchope is known for its past as a logging town.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Hastings Medical Centre
- Wauchope Quality Healthcare – Campbell Street

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

WOOLGOOLGA
Classification: MMM3 | Group: B

The coastal town of Woolgoolga is known for its beaches, whale watching and views of the stunning Solitary Islands. It is also known for its Sikh temples and large Sikh population.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Beach Street Family Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities

The nearest hospital to Woolgoolga is in Coffs Harbour. Please see the Coffs Harbour town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.
I enjoyed everything too much to pick just one facet of medicine to focus on for the next 30 years of my life, so I decided to become a GP. The opportunity to look deeply into a topic I’m passionate about and develop a deeper understanding of research skills attracted me to undertake an academic component to my training.

I’m surveying GP attitudes towards environmental sustainability in general practices and barriers perceived towards improvement.

I think the profession is richer for having an evidence base that’s specific to general practice, and that’s only going to happen if GPs conduct research. I’m enjoying gaining an appreciation for this aspect of medicine.
### Cessnock
- Classification: MMM3 | Group: A
- Cessnock is the gateway to the Hunter Valley, the oldest wine growing region in Australia.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- Cessnock General Practice
- Cessnock Community Healthcare
- Cumberland Street Clinic

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

### Gloucester
- Classification: MMM5 | Group: A
- Gloucester is a pretty country town adjacent to the World Heritage listed Barrington Tops National Park.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- Gloucester MediCo
- Gloucester Primary Care Clinic

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthesia, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care, obstetrics.

### Dungog
- Classification: MMM5 | Group: A
- Dungog is a beautiful country town with views of rolling hills and the nearby Williams River.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- The Medical Practice – Dungog
- Primary Care Clinic, Emergency Dept Dungog Hospital

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

### Muswellbrook
- Classification: MMM4 | Group: A
- Muswellbrook is a vibrant country town surrounded by vineyards and horse studs.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- Brook Medical Centre

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: anaesthesia, emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care, obstetrics and gynaecology.

### Forster – Tuncurry
- Classification: MMM3 | Group: B
- The coastal towns of Forster and Tuncurry are part of the Great Lakes District of the NSW Mid North Coast, they are located on either side of the entrance of Wallis Lake, and joined by a large bridge.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- Access Health Care – Tuncurry
- Forster Tuncurry Medical Centre
- Tobwabba AMS
- Tuncurry Medical Centre
- Wallis Street Medical Centre

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
The nearest hospital to Forster and Tuncurry is in Taree. Please see the Taree town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

### Nelson Bay - Shoal Bay – Salamander Bay
- Classification: MMM4 | Group: B
- Nelson Bay, Shoal Bay and Salamander Bay are major holiday destinations located on beautiful Port Stephens.

**View town profile**

**Accredited GP facilities:**
- Bay Doctors and Skin Cancer Clinic
- Nelson Plaza Clinic
- Providence Medical Shoal Bay

**Rural generalist/procedural opportunities**
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.
Singleton is a vibrant and diverse riverside town, located at the centre of the Hunter Valley wine region.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Burdekin Park Medical Centre
- Raworth Medical
- Singleton Heights Medical Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
Employment opportunities for GP registrars or rural generalists/procedural GPs may be available in the following disciplines: emergency medicine, anaesthesia, obstetrics & gynaecology, paediatrics, mental health, palliative care.

Stroud is classified by the National Trust due to its convict-era buildings.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Stroud MediCo

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
The nearest hospital to Stroud is in Dungog. Please see the Dungog town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.

Taree and Wingham are within 15 minutes’ drive of each other, both are located on the Manning River and surrounded by rich, rural farmland.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Access Health Care – Taree
- Biripi Aboriginal Medical Centre
- HealthHub Taree
- Manning Valley Medical
- Taree Medical Centre
- Wynter Street Medical Centre
- Wingham Family Health Clinic
- Wingham Wellbeing

Taree is known as the ‘Horse Capital of Australia’, it is home to world-class thoroughbred breeders and many equine events.

Tanilba Bay is a small coastal community on the Port Stephens peninsula.

Accredited GP facilities:
- Tilligerry Medical Practice

Rural generalist/procedural opportunities
The nearest hospital to Tanilba Bay is in Nelson Bay. Please see the Nelson Bay town profiles for rural generalist/procedural opportunities.
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