

# Life as a GP... In a rural pathway

Many GP's thrive on the career diversity available in rural settings, being able to work in a variety of primary health care settings with greater opportunities to perform procedural medicine. Registrars in rural training pathways are supported by their training provider and experienced GP Supervisors, with exposure to all types of medicine.

## Training in a Rural Pathway

Registrars in rural pathways spend a minimum of 18 months of their GP term training in rural locations, classified as Rural, Remote & Metropolitan Areas (RRMAs) 3-7. Rural pathway Registrars typically complete 12 months training in a hospital setting, followed by 2 or 3 years of General Practice placements and extended skills training depending on their fellowship choice. They can also complete their training in a range of other settings (such as accredited rural and remote hospitals, Aboriginal medical services & community based facilities) and are eligible for generous financial incentives.

Overseas trained doctors affected by the 10 year moratorium are only eligible to apply for rural pathways. In NSW rural pathways are offered by CoastCityCountry Training (CCCT), General Practice Training - valley to coast, GPlogic, GP Synergy and North Coast GP Training (NCGPT).



*"What I love about being a rural GP is not having to think about peak hour traffic or even traffic lights on my way to work and that I haven't worn a tie since I got here (and don't expect to start anytime soon). I love the personal attention by my medical educators*

*and that I can work as a rural, procedural GP, yet live ten minutes from world class untouched beaches. I love that my patients accept me for who I am and appreciate the service that I offer to the community. I love my lifestyle!"*

*Rural pathway GP Registrar, Dr Tim Francis*

## How to experience General Practice

Junior Doctors can undertake an accredited General Practice rotation during their pre-vocational hospital years. The Pre-Vocational General Practice Placements Program (PGPPP) provides you with a taste of what it's really like to be a GP, over and above that experienced in undergraduate training, with lots of hands-on clinical opportunities as well as lots of support and supervision. If you would like more information about PGPPP, visit [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au)



*"Working as a Royal Flying Doctor Service GP is a job with a mixture of everything. Work is divided between clinics and on calls, so we might fly to a remote town and do a "normal" day of consultations one day or do telephone consultations and respond to emergencies the next.*

*It is fascinating to see the very different demographics of each town and the variety of health problems. Everyday, I expect the unexpected and rural GP training has really allowed me to find my path."*

*Rural pathway GP Registrar,  
Dr Solange Costermans-Imseih*

### To find out more

If you would like to find out more about a career in General Practice or talk to a current GP Registrar about life as GP, contact your local training provider or visit [www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au). Please note, this information is subject to change - always check the most up to date information available through the AGPT website ([www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au)) before applying.

# Life as a GP... In a general pathway

The challenge and diversity of medical presentations, the ability to offer holistic continuity of care and the opportunity to really make a difference are just a few of the reasons why urban GP's love their job. As a general pathway GP Registrar you'll find no two days are the same, treating patients from a range of socio-cultural and economic backgrounds with extensive support and supervision from your training provider and dedicated GP Supervisors.

## Training in a General Pathway

GP Registrars training in a general pathway typically undertake 12 months of training in a hospital setting, followed by 2 years of General Practice placements and extended skills training depending on their fellowship preference. In the general pathway, whilst the majority of training is undertaken in urban areas, Registrars are required to undertake a minimum of 6 months in a GP term in a rural area (RRMA 3-7), with Registrars based in a capital city also required to spend 6 months in an approved outer metropolitan location.



*"During my hospital training 'balance' in my life was non-existent. I loved the challenges and diversity of medicine, but was yearning for flexibility that would allow me to pursue other interests. Since*

*training as an urban GP I have felt the true sense of being on the frontline in our health system, with the diversity of thought provoking presentations being an immense driving force inspiring me on a personal and professional level. General Practice has been a dream come true... best of all it's the flexibility in training that has permitted me to spend much more time with my children and not miss their amazing achievements as they grow."*

*General Pathway GP Registrar, Dr Hanady Nasreddine*

Generous Government financial incentives are available for those Registrars who choose to spend more than 6 months in a rural area.

All NSW training providers offer general pathways, with the exception of GPLogic.

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*"At first I was a bit worried that being a GP would be lots of coughs and pap smears but in fact there is so much more interesting medicine to*

*see and so many different people to meet, it really widens your perspective on life itself.*

*I really enjoy the holistic patient care, flexibility and a chance to make a difference in people's everyday life. I would definitely recommend this as a career because with all the different things you see, you won't ever get bored. There are also many opportunities to sub-specialise and tailor your work to your interests."*

*General Pathway GP Registrar, Dr Vanessa Siu*

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