



More Doctors

FOR OUTER METROPOLITAN AREAS

OUTER METROPOLITAN OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM

The Outer Metropolitan Other Medical Practitioners Program is part of the More Doctors for Outer Metropolitan Areas Measure announced in the 2002–03 Budget. The objective of the Measure is to improve the supply of doctors in outer metropolitan areas where there are doctor shortages.

The Outer Metropolitan Other Medical Practitioners Program has two components. The first is aimed at encouraging non-vocationally recognised general practitioners to move to outer metropolitan areas with doctor shortages. The second component encourages non-vocationally recognised general practitioners already in these areas to remain there and undertake a pathway to vocational recognition.

Who may apply?

The program is for non-vocationally recognised general practitioners, also known as 'other medical practitioners'. These are doctors who have not undertaken Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) or otherwise obtained vocational recognition, and as a consequence are only able to access the lower A2 Medicare rebate level. To participate in this program, doctors must not have any restrictions on their Medicare provider number. Doctors must also be working in, or willing to relocate to, eligible outer metropolitan areas.

What incentives are being offered?

The program provides access to the higher A1 Medicare rebate level for approved doctors who agree to take part in a pathway to FRACGP.

What is an eligible area?

Doctors may apply to relocate to, or remain in, an outer metropolitan area that is experiencing a doctor shortage. Eligible areas are shown on the eligible area maps ([link to the maps](#)).

When will the higher Medicare rebate apply?

The higher Medicare rebate can only be claimed using a Medicare provider number issued by the Health Insurance Commission (HIC). The HIC will issue this provider number after the Department advises that both the doctor and location have been approved for the program.

What additional benefits are available to doctors who agree to relocate?

Doctors who agree to relocate from a relatively well supplied inner metropolitan area to an eligible outer metropolitan location will not only have access to the higher Medicare rebate level, but may also be able to access a relocation incentive grant ([link to relocation incentive grant information](#)). Access to the relocation incentive grant is generally only available to those doctors who are approved under the relocation component of the program.

What conditions apply to a relocation incentive grant being approved?

Incentives will only be paid to doctors who are moving away from inner metropolitan areas that are relatively well supplied with doctors. Medical workforce statistics will be taken into account when applications are assessed, to ensure that doctors are not paid incentives to move away from areas which are also experiencing workforce shortages.

What happens if a doctor does not continue to work in an eligible outer metropolitan area?

The doctor will no longer be able to access the higher Medicare rebate level. The higher Medicare rebate is only available for those services provided from the doctor's approved location.

What are the pathways to Fellowship of the RACGP?

There are a number of pathways to Fellowship which include:

The Australian General Practice Training Program

Fellowship will be awarded on successful completion of:

- documentary evidence of successful completion of the Australian General Practice Training Program; and
- passing the College Examination.

The practice eligible route

Fellowship will be awarded on:

- passing the College Examination or Practice Based Assessment; and
- evidence of 7 years postgraduate experience including 5 years General Practice experience or its part-time equivalent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information on obtaining Fellowship of the RACGP follow the links at the website www.racgp.org.au.

For more information on the Program, contact the Department of Health and Ageing by:

- calling the Department's Outer Metropolitan Hotline on 1800 727 899 (freecall);
- emailing the Department's Outer Metropolitan Taskforce at health.workforce@health.gov.au, or
- following the website links at: www.health.gov.au/workforce/new/more.htm