

Registrar / Practice Placement Policy - 2011

General Practice placements for registrars enrolled with the Sturt Fleurieu general practice training program are available in the Riverland, Barossa, Murray Mallee, Adelaide Hills, the South East of South Australia, the Fleurieu Peninsula and Southern metropolitan Adelaide.

A list of the Sturt Fleurieu practices and their individual profiles are available on the Sturt Fleurieu website: www.sfgpet.com.au

1. BACKGROUND

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of government and provider initiated changes which will have significant consequences for the placement arrangements managed by Sturt Fleurieu from 2011 onwards. These changes are:

- Sturt Fleurieu will become the primary provider for general practice training to the SE of South Australia using existing practices in Mt Gambier, Naracoorte, and Millicent. Discussions are underway with a number of other practices within this area and it is expected that additional places will be available from 2012 onwards;
- the announcement by the Federal Government of a new locality classification – the Australian Standard Geographic Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) which commences from 1 July 2010; and
- the impact of changed training requirements for general pathway registrars with regard to undertaking a mandatory rural term.

Irrespective of these changes, Sturt Fleurieu will continue to maintain its commitment to its registrars and partner general practices based on the following principles:

- All teaching practices must have equal access to registrars. This is to make certain that equal distribution of registrars throughout the regional areas is achieved and maintained.
- Placements must accommodate specific training requirements, as directed by Australian General Practice Training program policy. This is to ensure that all registrars are able to meet their training commitments and therefore satisfactorily complete training.
- Registrars are required to visit nominated practices for placement interviews. The result of the interview process is used to determine the mutual suitability of a placement from both a registrar and practice perspective. General practice is predominantly delivered in a small business setting and so compatibility and skill mix will be key indicators in a successful placement.

2. PLACEMENT TIMETABLE

The placement of registrars into general practices is undertaken in May and September of each year. From the time of notification of placement choices to the finalisation of employment contracts and medical registration takes approximately 3/4 months to complete.

3. PRACTICE SELECTION

For each placement rotation a registrar will be allocated a choice of up to three practices for consideration. These choices are assigned by Sturt Fleurieu based on the training requirements of the registrar as well as the individual practice requirements (registrar training level, gender of registrar, full time/part time etc). Registrars are expected to visit each of the nominated practices to discuss their training requirements and to familiarise themselves with the practice environment. Details of the current accredited Sturt Fleurieu training practices are listed at Attachment A.

4. PLACEMENT TERMS

Placement terms are offered for a minimum of six months. Providing there is no conflict in the training requirements for the registrar, a term can be extended by mutual agreement between the registrar and the practice to 12 months.

It is not permissible for general pathway registrars to extend their placement at the same practice beyond 12 months.

In exceptional circumstances a rural registrar may be granted permission to extend a placement beyond 12 months at the same practice. Consideration for any extension will be based on written submission and will be at the sole discretion of the Director of Medical Education.

5. SPECIFIC PLACEMENT CONDITIONS

Where possible the specific circumstances of an individual registrar will be taken into account in the placement process, within the constraints of attempting to maintain equity for all registrars and considering the requirements of individual general practices.

6. GENERAL PATHWAY (RA 1 LOCATIONS)

Under new conditions implemented at the commencement of the 2010 training year, a registrar now has the flexibility to complete an outer metropolitan placement for 12 months or elect to spend six months in each of an outer metropolitan and a rural area.

a) Outer Metropolitan Placements

Sturt Fleurieu has a significant number of outer metropolitan designated practices located in the Southern Metropolitan and Adelaide Hills regions. It is most likely that several placements will occur in these designated practices during a registrar's time in the program. Additional financial support is provided to registrars undertaking an outer metropolitan term.

b) Rural Placements

Sturt Fleurieu will ensure that the placement of a registrar undertaking general pathway training with an accredited rural general practice will be in reasonable proximity to the Adelaide metropolitan area. If a registrar wishes to seek a placement outside of the proximity of the Adelaide metropolitan area, then these requirements need to be discussed with Sturt Fleurieu.

7. RURAL PATHWAY (RA 2 AND 3 LOCATIONS)

Registrars undertaking rural pathway training must complete a minimum of 18 months in an accredited rural general practice. A further six months may be completed either in rural general practice or in an extended skills post.

During the period of training in general practice all rural pathway registrars will be required to undertake a mandatory six month general practice training rotation at an accredited RA 3 training location in either the Riverland (Barmera, Berri, Loxton, Renmark or Waikerie) or the South East of South Australia (Mt Gambier, Naracoorte or Millicent).

Registrars placed in the Riverland or the South East of South Australia at the beginning of their general practice training will be given priority for a placement with a rural general practice of their choosing later in their training. Registrars should be aware that the availability of some practices may be restricted due to a placement demand associated with a practice's accredited teaching level standard (level 1 or level 2).

Rural pathway registrars who are placed in an RA2 rural location early in their training will be required to undertake a placement in an RA3 practice in the Riverland or the South East of South Australia during the latter part of their training.

A rural registrar will be required to acknowledge at the time of accepting an offer from Sturt Fleurieu of a training position in the AGPT program, that there will be a mandatory requirement to undertake a minimum 6 month placement in an RA 3 location during the training time period. Failure to acknowledge this requirement will result in any offer being withdrawn.

8. PLACEMENT APPEALS PROCESS

Provision exists for a registrar to seek an exemption from a specific placement if there are circumstances which could not be reasonably foreseen at the time of accepting a training position to join the AGPT program.

A registrar can lodge an application for exemption in writing addressed to the Director of Medical Education. Applications must explain the reasons for the changed circumstances since accepting a training position with AGPT program.

This may relate to:

- An unforeseen health condition involving the registrar or the registrar's immediate family and/or parents. Supporting medical documentation must be provided with the application.
- The relocation of a registrar's spouse/partner for work purposes where the new work location is not at an acceptable commutable distance from the practice placement (greater than 150 km one-way). Supporting evidence must be provided from the employer indicating the location of the new workplace.

Reasons such as schooling, the provision of child care facilities, the lack of a driver's licence or proximity to an existing primary residence will not be regarded as an acceptable justification to grant an exemption.

Applications for exemption must be lodged by either 30th September (for semester 1 placements) or 31st May (for semester 2 placements) respectively.

An application for exemption will be considered in the first instance by the Director of Medical Education. In the event that a registrar wishes to appeal the decision of the Director of Medical Education, the appeal will be referred to a committee comprising the CEO, Registrar Liaison Officer, and an independent GP supervisor.

Applications may be refused if, in the opinion of the CEO, they do not follow the procedures stated above.

In the event that this committee rejects the exemption application, failure to then take up the placement offer will result in the registrar immediately being placed on leave for the duration of the semester. In some circumstances this action may also result in a recommendation to GPET that the registrar be excluded from the training program.

GPET policy states that a registrar may not commence their training time with a discretionary leave period.

Procedures for registrars to appeal decisions by their training provider are set out in the AGPT program policy guidelines. The AGPT policy guidelines are available from www.agpt.com.au

9. CONTACTS FOR PLACEMENT ADVICE

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Attachment A

Training Practice Details

2010 – 2011

URBAN

Training Provider Name	Suburb	Division	ASGC-RA Classification	Outer Metro
Aberfoyle Park Medical Centre	Aberfoyle Park	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arkaba Medical Centre	Parkside	Adelaide	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aldinga Medical Centre*	Aldinga Beach	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bedford Park Clinic	Clovelly Park	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belair Medical Clinic	Belair	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blackwood Clinic	Blackwood	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chandlers Hill Surgery	Happy Valley	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christies Beach Medical Centre	Christies Beach	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crafter Medical Centre	Hawthorn	Adelaide	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flagstaff Hill Medical Centre	Flagstaff Hill	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flinders Clinic	Oaklands Park	Adelaide	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floreat Surgery	Morphett Vale	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gawler Medical Clinic [#]	Gawler	Northern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hallett Cove Corner Surgery	Hallett Cove	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hills Medical Service	Aldgate	Adelaide Hills	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kingston Family Practice	Brighton	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morphett Vale Family Practice	Morphett Vale	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nunkuwarnin Yunti*	Adelaide	Adelaide	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seacombe Medical Centre	Seacombe Gardens	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stirling Medical Centre	Stirling	Adelaide Hills	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodcroft Medical Practice	Woodcroft	Southern	1	<input type="checkbox"/>

RURAL

Training Provider Name	Town	Division	ASGC-RA Classification
Angaston Medical Centre	Angaston	Barossa	2
Barmera Medical Centre	Barmera	Riverland	3
Berri Medical Clinic	Berri	Riverland	3
Bridge Clinic*	Murray Bridge	Murray Mallee	2
Goolwa Medical Centre*	Goolwa	Southern	2
Gumeracha Medical Practice	Gumeracha	Adelaide Hills	2
Hahndorf Medical Centre*	Hahndorf	Adelaide Hills	2
Kapunda Medical Practice*	Kapunda	Barossa	2
Kincaig Medical Centre	Naracoorte	Limestone Coast	3
Loxton Medical Centre	Loxton	Riverland	3
Mt Barker / Balhannah Medical Centre*	Mt Barker / Balhannah	Adelaide Hills	2
Mt Barker Family Medical Practice	Mt Barker	Adelaide Hills	2
Mt Barker Medical Clinic*	Mt Barker	Adelaide Hills	2
Mt Pleasant (Talunga Clinic)	Mount Pleasant	Barossa	2
Norfolk House Medical Services	Victor Harbor	Southern	2
Renmark Medical Centre	Renmark	Riverland	3
Nuriootpa Medical Centre	Nuriootpa	Barossa	2
Southern Fleurieu Family Practice	Yankalilla	Southern	2
Strathalbyn Branch - Mt Barker Medical Clinic*	Strathalbyn	Adelaide Hills	2
Strathalbyn Medical Clinic*	Strathalbyn	Adelaide Hills	2
Tanunda Medical Clinic	Tanunda	Barossa	2
The Medical Centre	Millicent	Limestone Coast	3
Victor Medical Centre*	Victor Harbor	Southern	2
Waikerie Medical Centre	Waikerie	Riverland	3

* These practices have branch practices which registrars will be required to work in.

Change in classification status effective from 1 July 2010.