

Victorian Rural Generalist Program Communiqué June 2020

Program Transition Year 2020

Background

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) initiated Statewide consultation in 2019 to discuss with the sector the consolidation of funded rural medical workforce programs and investments in rural medical workforce training into one cohesive, well-coordinated end-to-end Rural Generalist training pathway. The Victorian Rural Generalist Program (VRGP) is the result of that consultation and will be implemented in a phased approach beginning in 2020.

The long-term objectives of the VRGP is to increase employment of Rural Generalists in rural health services to address the needs of local communities. The adaptable continuous improvement approach to the program implementation will ensure that these long-term objectives and workforce outputs are met.

Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV)

PMCV has been tasked with the implementation coordination of the VRGP. The implementation function will coordinate all of the requirements for the development, implementation, evaluation and ongoing management of the VRGP. PMCV existing core functions of allocation and placement (computer matching), accreditation and professional development activities will be embedded into the new program. PMCV is responsible for the following key activities:

- Implementation coordination
- Allocation and placement service
- Marketing and communications
- Establishment and secretariat of the VRGP Statewide Reference Committee
- Mapping of career training pathways on website

The first stage of the implementation is to centralise the Rural Generalist Advanced match for the PGY3+ group, establish the Statewide Reference Committee and continuation of marketing and communications, including the official website www.vicruralgeneralist.com.au.

Statewide Reference Committee

The Program Governance Framework which details the terms of reference for the Statewide Reference Committee (SRC) has been sent with this communiqué. The SRC will be formally established towards the end of July or middle of August. The Chair of each Regional Network will be asked to join this Committee and PMCV will be seeking nominations for representation from the following organisations:

- RACGP
- ACRRM
- Victorian Regional Training Hubs Alliance
- RTOs
- RWAV
- PHN
- RDAV

Rural Generalist Advanced Positions 2021

Allocation and Placement Service (APS)

The guidelines and timelines for the Rural Generalist Advanced (RG Advanced) APS are being developed in consultation with Regional Networks, RTOs, and colleges. As 2020 is a transition year provisional processes will be in place while these are being fully developed. It is important to note that all RG Advanced positions in Victoria are now a part of the VRGP and will align to the Program Management Framework and key performance indicators. All RG Advanced positions must be in the PMCV RG Advanced Match to qualify for funding from DHHS.

Where Regional Networks have identified existing trainees that want to build their career in the region they can recruit to RG Advanced positions through a pre-match arrangement. Involvement of the Regional Coordinators or the Statewide Coordinator in the ranking, interview and selection processes is required for all positions, including those being pre-matched. The Process for pre-match will be as follows;

- All positions being included in DHHS funding applications for the 2021 training year must be provided to PMCV for inclusion in the Central Listing Service
- Regional Coordinators, or the Statewide Coordinator, will need to inform PMCV of any candidates that are going to be given pre-matched offers and will need to supply, name, contact details and consent for candidates name to be passed on to Colleges and RTOs to confirm eligibility
- All pre-match employment offers will need to be finalised by July 17 2020.

	Applicable to ALL current and new trainees applying for, accepted into, or currently on, an accredited GP Training Program and GP Fellows
May – June	Advertising period via Health Services websites, RTO websites, and VRGP website
29 June	Match opens for Candidates: Registration Referee nomination Nomination of health service and Regional Network preferences Candidates to submit applications to Health Services Consent required for information to be passed to Health Services, ACRRM, RG Regional Coordinator & RTO
29 June	Health Service Applications Opens: Health Services HR systems are open to accept applications
17 July	Final date for pre-matched positions to be finalised
23 July	Candidate registrations close: Referees to have completed online referee report form
20 July – 31 July	Assessment period for Health Services and Regional Coordinators: Access Candidates List and completed referee reports
3 – 21 Aug	Health Service and Regional Network Interviews

28 Aug	Final date for candidates to change existing preferences or withdraw: Withdraw from Match, voluntary Withdraw from Match if unsuccessful with application to accredited GP training program Delete/Reorder preferences (existing preferences only)
31 – 4 Sept	Preference Submission and Match closes for Health Services: Submit online list of preferred candidates in rank order
7 –11 Sept	Match takes place: APS team run matching algorithm and check results
14 Sept	Match Results Available: Match results are available to candidates, health service administrators and RG Regional Coordinators via the PMCV Allocation and Placement Service website

We want to be flexible, where possible, to ensure that recruitment is successful, while still meeting the aims of the program. Regional Coordinators will work with all trainees on the development of their training pathways and career plans. This work will be done in conjunction with the Regional Networks once these are established. For all positions not being pre-matched the table below details the timeline for the RG Advanced computer match for 2020. This is also available on the [website](#).

Eligibility

All candidates applying to RG Advanced positions in Victoria for the 2021 training year, including those being pre-matched, will need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Enrolled, or accepted, in an accredited [General Practice training program](#) for the 2021 training year,
- Or current registration as a GP
- And demonstrate a commitment to Rural Generalist training, building a career and practicing the Advanced skill in for which they are applying.
- Candidates on RACGP training programs will also need to provide evidence that they will complete the requirements of hospital-based training before commencement in the RG Advanced role. This will be done via a practice readiness assessment with the RTO.

Funding

For the 2021 training year, funding is available for 47 Rural Generalist Advanced training positions to be filled across Victoria. Rural Generalist Advanced training positions are funded at \$110,000 per post (FTE). Funding will be paid for confirmed training posts in February 2021.

Advertising

Health services will have received communication about PMCV's new role in managing the Central Listing Service for all Doctor-in-Training positions across Victoria. RG [Advanced](#) positions will also need to be included in this Central Listing and will be advertised on the platform from June 5th 2020.

Pilot Two-year contracts

DHHS has advised the VRGP coordinating health services that they can offer two-year contracts to current interns in Rural Community Intern Training programs. The Training and Development grants will help programs to develop the necessary networked training arrangements to develop Rural Generalist Year 2 training positions and ensure that rural generalist specific PGY2 places are available for extended contracts. PMCV will be evaluating the outcomes of these two-year contracts on workforce retention in 2021.

Multi-year Pathway contracts

PMCV will be working collaboratively with Regional Networks and key stakeholders to facilitate the development of regional multi-year contract templates for the three-year pathway positions which include Rural Generalist 1, Rural Generalist 2 and Rural Generalist Advanced. The aim will be to have this work finalised by April 2021 in time for the Intern APS (previously known as Intern Computer Match).

Marketing and Communications

The new website www.vicruralgeneralist.com.au is live. We will continue to update and add content and we would love feedback to help us ensure that it is meeting the needs of students and trainees. Googling and clicking on the site rather than going straight to the address will help the site to move up in the search results list.

New Program Terminology

Previous term	New program term	New Acronym
Intern	Rural Generalist Year 1	RG1
PGY2	Rural Generalist Year 2	RG2
Advanced Skills/Advanced Rural Skills	Rural Generalist Advanced	RG Advanced
Consolidation of Skills Training	Rural Generalist Consolidation	RGC
Rural Community Intern Training Program (RCIT)	Rural Generalist Year 1 [Region]	RG1 [Region]
GP-RG Program	No longer in use	
	Victorian Rural Generalist Program	VRGP
Intern Computer Match (and other PMCV Match services)	Allocation and Placement Service (applies to all PMCV match services)	APS

For any questions or to provide feedback on the website please email Program Implementation Coordinator, [Mimi Zilliacus](mailto:mzilliacus@pmcv.com.au) <mzilliacus@pmcv.com.au>

To receive this document in another format, [email Victorian Rural Generalist Program](mailto:vrgp@pmcv.com.au) <vrgp@pmcv.com.au>

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