



The 10 year moratorium:

Important information for international medical graduates



What is the 10 year moratorium?

The 10 year moratorium legislation affects where many International Medical Graduates (IMGs) can train and practice as a GP.

Those affected are IMGs who did not obtain their primary qualification in Australia or New Zealand and who were not registered as a medical practitioner prior to January 1997. Overseas doctors who obtained their primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand but were not an Australian/New Zealand permanent resident or Australian/New Zealand citizen when they commenced studying are also affected by the moratorium.

Under the moratorium, IMGs will only be issued a Medicare provider number if they work in designated outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas of Australia for a length of time. IMGs may be able to reduce their moratorium time by training/working in particular areas of Australia (see 'Where can I train?' overleaf).

What date is the moratorium effective from?

The moratorium obligation for all moratorium affected doctors commences as from the date of first medical registration in Australia.



Life and work in rural Victoria is a far cry from that of rural Thailand – just ask Dr Siraporn Tagerd. Sira graduated from Chiang Mai University in 2001. After two years working in Melbourne hospitals, Sira decided to pursue a specialist

GP career. For Sira, life as a GP in rural Victoria is proving to be stimulating and interesting.

“In Thailand people normally see a specialist straight away so GPs tend to treat issues like back pain, coughs and colds and injuries. Now I see so many different problems. You never know what’s next and that’s the beauty of general practice in Australia. The variety, continuing care and ongoing patient-doctor relationship is wonderful.”

Siraporn Tagerd, GP registrar, Bogong.

Can I apply to GP Training?

Yes! IMGs are welcome to apply to GP Training. Due to the geographical restrictions on Medicare provider numbers you will need to apply for a rural pathway.

Applicants to GP Training must also meet all eligibility requirements including:-

- **Citizenship:** You must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. Alternatively, if you are a temporary resident who obtained their medical qualification in Australia you must be currently applying, or intend to apply, for permanent residence.
- **Medical Qualifications:** You must have obtained your primary medical qualification in Australia or New Zealand or have successfully completed all parts of the AMC exam by the AGPT application closing date.
- **Medical Registration:** You must have full unconditional medical registration by commencement of the training program or conditions deemed acceptable by General Practice Education & Training (GPET).

Please ensure you complete the eligibility flowchart on the AGPT website (www.apgt.com.au) before applying.

Where can I find out more about the Moratorium?

- For more information about the 10 year moratorium contact AGPT on (02) 6263 6777.
- Visit the Doctor Connect website and download the section 19AB fact sheet <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/work-s19AB%20factsheet>.
- Doctors requiring detailed information about their individual circumstances should contact the Department of Health and Ageing's Workforce Regulation Section by email at 19AB@health.gov.au

** This information is provided as a guide only. For the latest and most up to date information on the 10 Year Moratorium legislation, please refer to the AGPT website www.agpt.com.au.*



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Where can I train?

From 1 July 2010, medical areas will be classified by the Department of Health under the Australian Standard Geographic Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) systems. An area's RA classification is determined largely by a district's remoteness.

Doctors affected by the moratorium can only train in RAs 2-5, which requires those doctors to only apply for the rural pathway. A map locator is integrated into the Australian Government's Doctor Connect website – www.doctorconnect.gov.au

Doctors may also be able to reduce their moratorium time by working in certain RA areas (see table below).

General Practice Rural Incentive Program

The Government provides significant financial incentives for registrars training in rural locations under the GP Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP). Financial incentives are linked to geographic locations and can be explored at www.doctorconnect.gov.au.

GPRIP will provide registrars ongoing annual payments linked to rurality and length of service (between \$2,500 and \$47,000 pa). Full details about GRIPS can be found at www.agpt.com.au/Registrars/GPRIPFAQs/

RA Category	Description	Victoria Examples
RA1	Major Cities of Australia	Melbourne, Geelong and Frankston
RA2	Inner Regional Australia	Central Victorian corridor including Leongatha, Ballarat, Shepparton, Albury
RA3	Outer Regional Australia	Western Victoria, Eastern Victoria
RA4	Remote Australia	Hopetoun, Mallacoota
RA5	Very Remote Australia	There are no RA5 locations in Victoria.

The Alternative Pathway into Rural Practice

Entry into a GP training program is one way into general practice. But there is one other way! This path involves assistance and support from the Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria (RWAV) which is the Rural Health Workforce Agency for this State.

If one of the following describes you, then RWAV might be able to assist you into general practice in Victoria.

- You are Australian trained or have passed your AMC exams, are completing your second post graduate year, are not sure about general practice and would like to give it a try.
- You have passed your AMC exams, are completing your supervised year and have had experience in general practice elsewhere.

- You are an IMG (either a temporary or permanent resident) with your AMC Part 1(MCQ) and have had experience in general practice elsewhere.

There is a large range of positions available in a wide variety of settings with substantial and highly competitive incomes. There are opportunities for short- term placements or long-term commitments.

We would really like to help you. Contact our recruitment team on 03 9349 7800 or at www.rwav.com.au



More information

For more information about the 10 year moratorium contact AGPT on (02) 6263 6777. 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) before applying.



Bogong Regional Training Network
www.bogong.org.au



Southern GP Training
www.southerngptraining.com.au
*Formerly getGP & GGTGPET



VMA General Practice Training
www.vma.com.au



Beyond Medical Education
www.beyondmedical.com.au
*Formerly GPlogix & Victoria Felix Medical Education



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