

# Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice

## Overview – Registrars

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is awarded by the National Rural Faculty on behalf of the RACGP in recognition of the additional and unique educational requirements required for general practice in rural and remote communities of Australia. The Fellowship is based on accredited RACGP curricula and training standards.

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice provides an educational program to compliment and reinforce training and experience in rural general practice. It is closely integrated with the RACGP Curriculum for General Practice and Advanced Rural Skills Training curricula.

The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice is designed for registrars enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training Program who wish to undertake a recognised educational program to develop their knowledge and skills in rural general practice.

To be eligible to receive this award, registrars must complete 12 months in rural general practice, obtain the FRACGP, complete a 12 month advanced rural skills training post and meet the course requirements.

The key features of the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice are:

- ◆ Identification of learning needs, development of a learning plan and monitoring of progress in consultation with a medical educator
- ◆ Specific curriculum modules directly relevant to rural general practice are to be completed to meet the goals of the learning plan
- ◆ Wide choice of educational activities and modules available to candidates
- ◆ Candidates demonstrate their progress by maintaining an developing a FARGP Portfolio) (including evidence of completion of gp training and the FRACGP)
- ◆ The FARGP Portfolio forms the basis for assessment.

### **DURATION**

The minimum time for completion is one (1) year and the maximum time for completion is four (4) years.

### **Membership of the RACGP**

- Candidates must be financial members of the RACGP at the time of enrolment and for the duration of the program.



## APPROVED LEARNING PLAN OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The approved learning plan forms the reference point for the candidate's work in undertaking the program requirements. It is also important for the regular meetings between the candidate and the medical educator to review progress.

## DEVELOPING THE LEARNING PLAN

The development of a learning plan is the framework by which the learning objectives for the program are appropriately planned and achieved.

Early consultation with the candidate's nominated medical educator should occur to review learning needs and develop a learning plan. The pro-forma specifically designed for the learning plan should be used to review learning needs and develop the proposed program of educational activities. The learning plan should reflect agreement reached between candidate and medical educator on the proposed program of educational activities.

The learning plan is a living document, and as candidates progress through the program, the learning plan *should be modified as necessary*.

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The two core modules are 'Working in Rural General Practice' and 'Emergency Medicine'.

Elective educational activities are chosen in consultation with the candidate's medical educator. There are a variety of educational activities that may be undertaken by the candidate.

Educational activities may include:

- ◆ active learning through tutorials, seminars, workshops
- ◆ on-line learning activities
- ◆ case histories
- ◆ regular meetings with the medical educator
- ◆ peer group discussion
  - experiential learning under the supervision of rural specialists and GP supervisors
  - self-directed learning through projects, research, case presentations.

## FARGP PORTFOLIO

### **It is the candidate's responsibility to maintain their FARGP Portfolio.**

The portfolio consists of a folder which includes evidence of all completed educational modules and activities. The completed portfolio is the means by which the candidate demonstrates that all educational requirements have been met. It will be used to determine eligibility for the award of the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice.

As the various modules and activities are completed, they should be discussed with the medical educator who is responsible for reviewing progress and certifying that particular educational activities have been completed satisfactorily.

As different activities are undertaken, a record of completion together with the educational advisor's certification will be progressively developed and included in the FARGP portfolio.

## ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is based on the development and maintenance of an Educational Portfolio (EP) which will include evidence of:

- ◆ clinical experience and performance
- ◆ completion of educational assessment activities

Assessment should demonstrate educational activities with a rural focus. Educational activities can take the form of case studies, case commentaries, research papers, articles for publication, successful completion of relevant courses and activities (e.g. clinical audit) or specific areas of interest determined in consultation with the educational advisor. Certification of competence in specific clinical and consultation skills can also form part of the assessment process.

The candidate's completion of assessment activities should be based in the context of their practice environment as much as possible. For instance, if the participant is working or intends to work in a rural farming community, a mining town or cross-cultural context, this should be reflected in the portfolio.