

# Consolidation of Skills

## 2016-17 Guidelines

### Introduction

The Consolidation of Skills program enables rural medical practitioners, who have completed procedural skills training, to transition to being independent rural proceduralists.

Although primary medical care is a Commonwealth responsibility, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (the department) recognises the important and complementary role of general practice in relation to Victoria's public health system.

An appropriately skilled and distributed general practice workforce is required to meet the state's primary health care needs, particularly for the delivery of public and community health programs and procedural work in rural and regional hospitals. Funding assists with the development, recruitment and retention of a skilled general practice workforce for rural and regional Victoria.

The Consolidation of Skills program aims to ensure that rural medical practitioners, who have completed procedural skills training, are able to consolidate, refresh, update or maintain the skills learnt, to practise independently to meet the medical service needs of their local communities.

Applications for the Consolidation of Skills program must be accompanied by a 'Statement of Need'. Statements of Need must demonstrate how skills gained through the proposed training will address and support the medical service needs of the community/hospital where the medical practitioner intends to practise.

### Program Funding

Funding is available for rural health services and rural general practices to provide an opportunity for qualified procedural medical practitioners to consolidate their procedural skills.

Funding is available for salary support and resource needs for prospective medical practitioners to undertake supervised procedural practice in anaesthetics, obstetrics and emergency medicine to ensure the practitioner has the confidence to work independently. Other procedural skills consolidation may be considered if there is an identified need. Allocation will be based on identified need for procedural skills in rural health services

From 1 July 2016, the Consolidation of Skills program will be administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) on behalf of the department. RWAV will be responsible for managing all funding and ensuring that any proposed training will address the medical service needs of the community.

### Eligibility

Support subsidies, under the Consolidation of Skills program, are available to support medical practitioners who have undertaken procedural training (i.e Rural Extended and Advanced Procedural Skills and General Practice – Rural Generalist training programs), and who are:

- Fellored General Practitioners
- International Medical Graduates
- Australian Medical Graduates working in general practice; or
- Registrars in the Australian GP Training Program

## Applications

All applications must be accompanied with an “Application for Consolidation of Skills”, which can be obtained from RWAV.

Submissions will be coordinated and lodged by RWAV. All training providers (health services and other service providers) wishing to access funding under the Consolidation of Skills program should contact RWAV first.

Two RTOs are responsible for Victoria's rural general practitioner training programs: Eastern Victoria GP Training Limited and Murray City Country Coast GP Training Limited.

## Statement of Need

All applications must be accompanied by a Statement of Need. Statements must detail:

- The location/s the medical practitioner intends to practise when training is completed.
- The procedural service needs of the community where the medical practitioner intends to practise.
- A letter from the relevant health service/hospital indicating support for the applicant to take part in the program. This should include statements indicating rostering capacity and remuneration.
- A statement of current engagement with rural and regional practice and a demonstrated intent to provide services in rural and regional Victoria.

Funding is only available for training posts where there is an identified community need.

## Contact

### Rural Workforce Agency Victoria

Contact: Team Leader, Rural Workforce Programs

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### Eastern Victoria GP Training Limited

Contact: Julie Rogalsky, Director of Operations

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### Murray City Country Coast GP Training Limited

Contact: Linda Moon, Chief Operations Officer

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