

# Rural Extended and Advanced Procedural Skills (REAPS) program

2016-17 Guidelines

## Introduction

The Rural Extended and Advanced Procedural Skills (REAPS) program supports the development and maintenance of a flexible and skilled health workforce to meet the medical service needs of rural and regional Victoria.

Although primary medical care is primarily 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.

The REAPS program aims to ensure that rural and regional doctors have access to the extended and advanced skills training required to meet the medical service needs of the communities in which they practise. Funding assists with the development, recruitment and retention of a skilled general practice workforce for rural and regional Victoria.

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

## Program funding

Funding assists general practitioners, medical practitioners in general practice, and general practice registrars enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT), to undertake additional training in an extended or advanced procedural skill.

Funding is available to subsidise the cost of training in extended and advanced procedural skills, specifically for the provision of appropriate education, training and supervision.

Allocation will be based on identified medical service needs in rural Victorian health services, general practices, community settings and aboriginal health services.

From 1 July 2016, the REAPS 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.

The Regional Training Organisations – Eastern Victoria GP Training Limited and Murray City Country Coast GP Training Limited will be responsible for monitoring the quality of education, training and mentoring for trainees on the AGPT program and ensuring that the posts meet the specified standards.

Training providers are expected to make available flexible training options to encourage currently practising rural medical practitioners to participate in the program.

## Extended skills posts

Extended skills posts are non-procedural training posts that may be undertaken in a health service, general practice, community settings or Aboriginal health setting. Extended skills posts may vary in duration.

Funding is available for extended skills posts with RACGP or ACRRM Extended Skills Post accreditation, including, but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, alpine medicine, adolescent health, palliative care and emergency care.

For additional information and descriptions regarding the extended skills, please contact the relevant college or RWAV.

## Advanced skills posts

Advanced skills posts are 12 month training posts in disciplines prescribed by the relevant college. These training posts are usually undertaken within a health service.

Applications for advanced posts in specialities other than those prescribed by the college may also be considered where the post has relevant accreditation and significant community need is demonstrated.

For additional information and descriptions regarding the advanced skills training posts, please refer to the relevant College website:

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

<http://www.racgp.org.au/education/fellowship/ruraladvantage/>

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

<http://www.acrrm.org.au/training-towards-fellowship/curriculum-and-requirements/advanced-specialised-training>

## Accreditation and curriculum

In order to qualify for a training subsidy under the REAPS program, training posts must have the relevant accreditation with ACRRM or RACGP.

Training provided within the post will be based on the relevant curriculum and based on the trainee's individual learning plan. Training providers will be responsible for ensuring that a learning plan is developed that reflects both the training requirements

of the trainee and the service needs of the community. Individual learning plans should be developed jointly by the trainee and the supervisor and should include a list of learning objectives that are drawn from the key learning outcomes associated with the relevant curricula. The learning plan will also specify the required number of training hours or required number of procedures to be performed to meet the training requirements. Trainees on the AGPT program should contact the respective RTO directly in regards to learning plans.

As a condition of funding, training sites are required to release trainees for additional education/workshops required as part of the training course/curriculum, if this does not occur funding may be withdrawn.

## Eligibility

Training subsidies under the REAPS program are available for extended or advanced skills training posts filled by:

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

Priority for REAPS funding will be given to:

- Applications where the skill to be acquired contributes to the service needs of the community in which they practise; and

Applications from practising rural medical practitioners seeking to fulfil a service needs in their own community.

Applications from GP registrars that cannot detail the service needs of the community where the registrar practising, or intends to practise, are not eligible for funding under REAPS but may be considered for lateral into the [General Practitioner – Rural Generalist \(GP-RG\)](#) program where there will be a requirement to complete AGPT training in a rural area.

## Applications

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

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 for training posts 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 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

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### Eastern Victoria GP Training Limited

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### Murray City Country Coast GP Training Limited

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