

RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY

Western Australia

Speaker

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Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY – WA

Background

Western Australia:

- has relied on a generalist workforce in the past;
- has an ageing workforce;
- has a serious deficiency in procedural cover;
- currently is 60 doctors short;
- has a mal-distribution of workforce and a high turnover in remote areas;
- relies heavily on IMGs which make up 50.5 per cent of rural GPs and 56 per cent of rural specialists;
- annually recruits 60 doctors to work in rural Western Australia; and
- needs to increase training to produce at least 40 doctors per annum.



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Current Climate

- Rural Clinical School
 - *in 2008, Western Australia had 66 places and over 100 applications.*
- Regional Training Provider (WAGPET)
 - *in 2008, WAGPET had 28 rural GP training places on offer but were only able to fill 60 per cent. 25 per cent of applicants were IMGs.*
- Substantial loss of potential rural practitioners between Rural Clinical School and GP Training.
- Lack of coordination between training providers.



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Opportunities

- A steady increase in graduates from 107 in 2005 to 306 in 2014.
- Develop a seamless pathway towards General Practice and specialist fellowships.
- Success of the Rural Clinical School.
- Development of a comprehensive, State-based workforce plan linked to activity and gaps.



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Goal

- RGP Reference Group – a collaboration of peak bodies.
- Development of Terms of Reference.
- Goal:
 - *To develop a training program that forms a career pathway to supply the rural generalist workforce required in rural WA.*

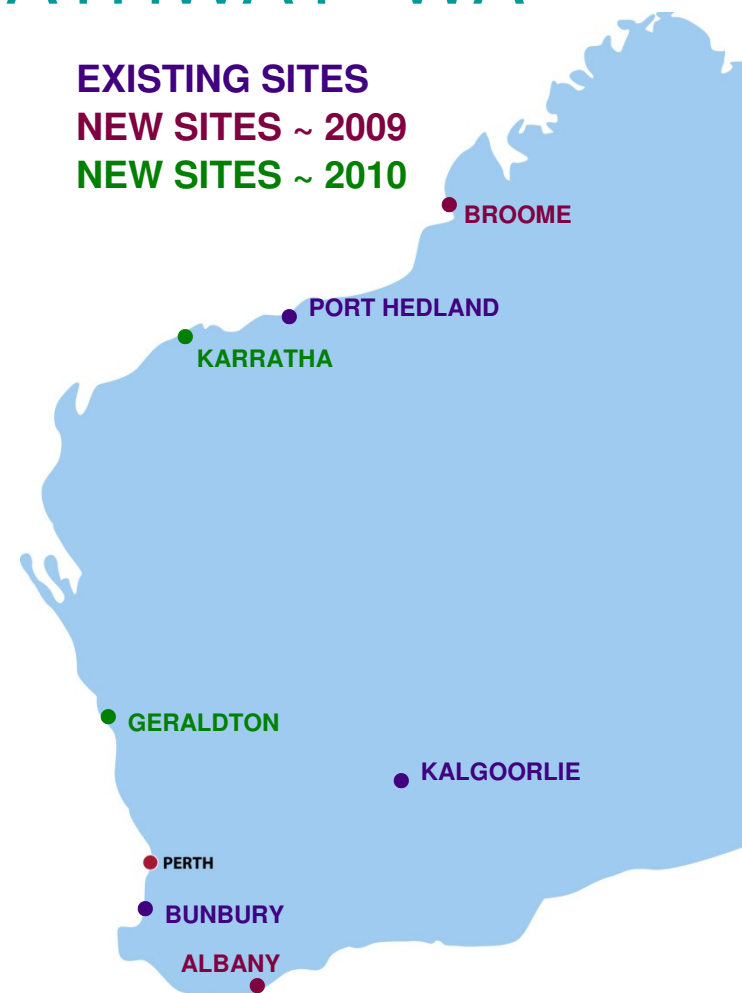


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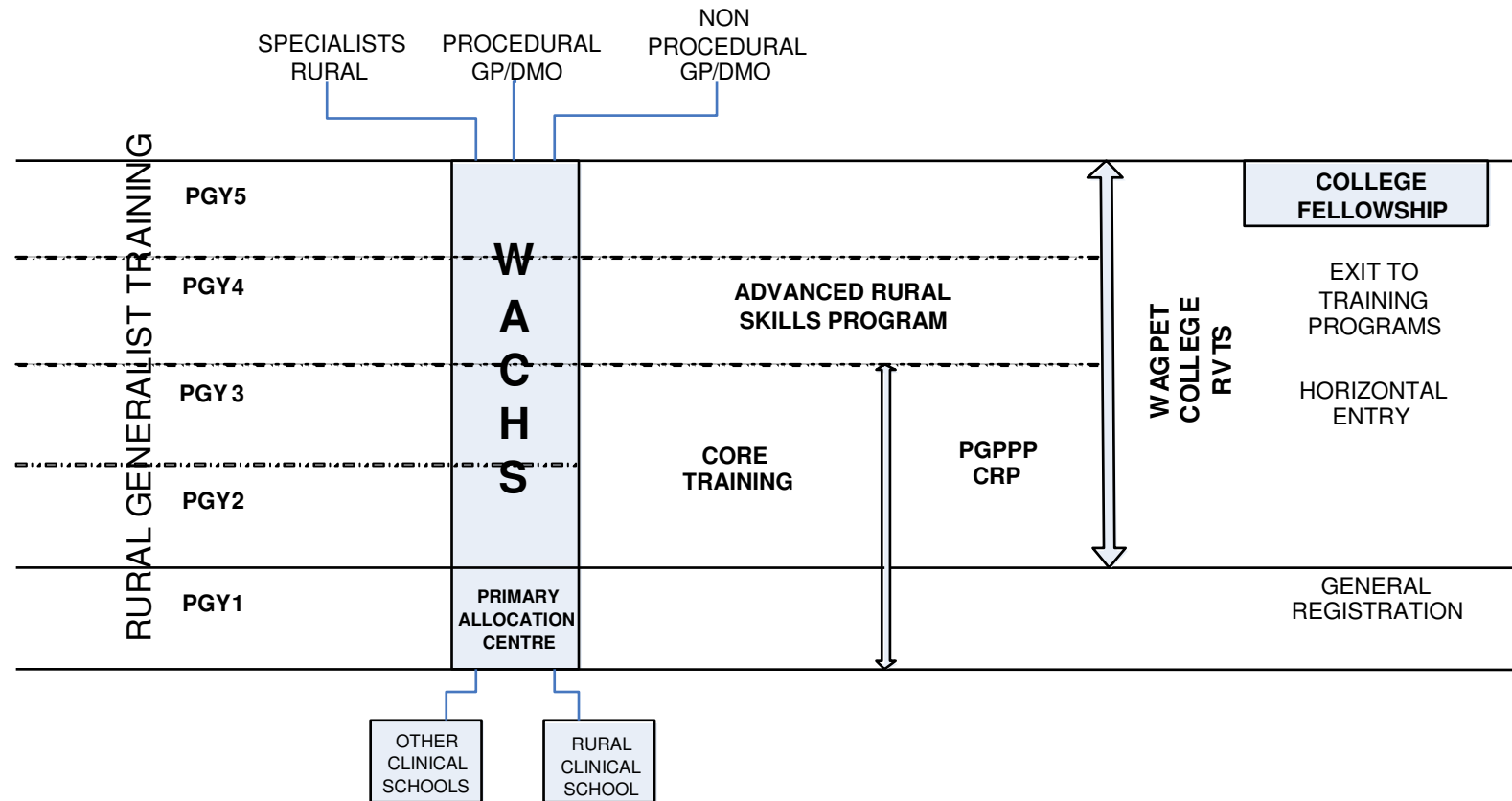
RGP Overview

- To enable doctors to undertake their training in regional Western Australia building on existing training places.
- WA Country Health Service developed as a Primary Allocation Centre.
- Modelled to match workforce requirements.
- Maximum flexibility of entry points and exit into other training programs.



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RURAL GENERALIST PATHWAY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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RGP Overview

- In 2009, establish five sites for 20 places with 10-30 week PGY1 (Intern) placements. Currently three sites with 10 week rotations.
- In 2010, extend locations and increase to 30 places incorporating PGY1 and PGY2.
- In 2011, extend locations and increase to 40 places incorporating PGY1, PGY2, PGY3 etc.
- Accreditation and standards, Rural Generalist Pathway curriculum.
- Ensure program is underpinned by supervision, mentoring and support.



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Key Conclusions

- Must increase training places in rural Western Australia focused towards known areas of need.
- RPG is last plank in measures required to address rural medical workforce shortage.
- Need to ensure a more coordinated and collaborative model of training and support to junior doctors.
- Strong support from rural doctors and communities that this is the right approach.
- Once established, this pathway will ensure a sustainable, locally trained workforce for rural Western Australia.



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