



Rural Exemption Policy

All general pathway registrars of the AGPT program are required by the Commonwealth Government to undertake 6 months of their training in a rural area. This is one of the conditions which registrars formally agree to when they accept a place in the program.

Exemptions from this requirement are granted rarely and only in circumstances where a rural term would impose unreasonable hardship on the registrar and subject to certain conditions.

These conditions are that

1. The circumstances developed or increased in severity after the registrar accepted a place in the AGPT program
2. The circumstance could not be reasonably foreseen at the time of accepting the place
3. Relevant supporting documentation is provided.

Most often the circumstance relates to the health needs of the registrar or the registrar's spouse or child, such that access to appropriate care in the rural region is not available.

Normal schooling and care services for children and pregnancy are specifically excluded as grounds for exemption. The registrar should plan the timing of the rural term with such factors in mind.

Full time ADF registrars may be exempt from the rural requirement if they cannot meet it because of Service needs.

If you believe that you are eligible for a rural exemption please do the following:

1. Discuss it with your medical educator.
2. If the medical educator believes that you have reasons that will be acceptable, you will be asked to write a letter to the medical educator with supporting documentation. You may still write a letter to the medical educator if you disagree with his/her verbal advice.
3. The medical educator will endorse or not endorse the rural exemption and will forward your letter to the CEO/Director of GP Training.
4. The CEO/Director of GP Training will make the final decision on rural exemption after considering all the information.