

# NT Primary Health Care Prevocational Placements

## INTRODUCTION

This document explains the role and objectives of the Prevocational Rural Trainee doing a placement in a primary health care setting. It provides information about the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP), including an overview of their clinical responsibilities and scope of practice.

## NT RURAL GENERALIST BACKGROUND

The NT Rural Generalist Pathway was established in response to the Australian Government initiative for a National Rural Generalist Pathway for medical practitioners who choose to work and live in rural and remote Australia delivering primary health care.

Each local jurisdiction has a Rural Generalist Coordination Unit (RGCU). Please see the website for more details on the NT RGCU [Home | Rural Generalist \(nt.gov.au\)](https://www.nt.gov.au/health/rural-generalist/)



## JOHN FLYNN PREVOCATIONAL DOCTOR PROGRAM (JFPDP)

The JFPDP provides prevocational doctors the opportunity to experience rural and remote general practice in a supervised setting prior to them making any career decisions. It is intended to build prevocational doctors' confidence, exposure and interest in rural General Practice & Rural Generalism and encourage them to consider a rural pathway as their future career. It also enhances their knowledge of general practice and the integration between primary and secondary health care.

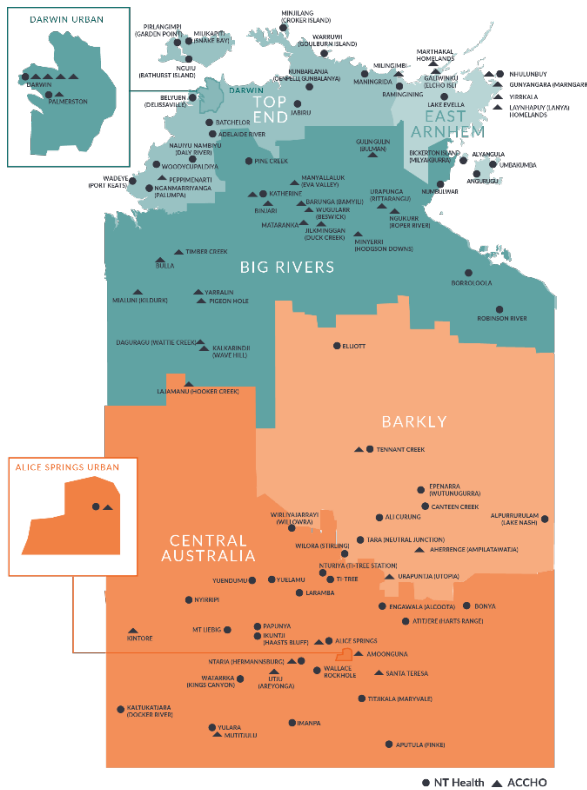
- Prevocational doctors undertake a 12 week rotation in an accredited primary health care training site working with an accredited supervisor.
- Where possible they will have their own consulting room and see their own patients with on-site supervision from an experienced accredited supervisor, supported by weekly teaching sessions and primary health care education programs.
- Like other hospital rotations, the JFPDP rotation is recognised as an accredited hospital term and they remain an employee of the hospital seconded/rotated out to another site.
- It's administered locally by the NT Rural Generalist Coordination Unit, in partnership with the employing hospitals who provide the prevocational rural trainees.

### JFPDP Placement Locations

The RGCU offers a range of prevocational rural trainee placements in accredited regional training hospitals and primary health care practices across the territory.

Both NT Health Primary Health Care sites as well as placement opportunities in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT Clinics.

Placement locations are at accredited regional training hospitals and primary health care practices across the territory and include;



- ➔ Top End Region Health Service (TERHS)
- ➔ Central Australia Region Health Service (CARHS)
- ➔ East Arnhem Region Health Service (EARHS)
- ➔ Big Rivers Region Health Service (BRHS)
- ➔ Barkly Region Health Service (BRHS)

## Benefits of the JFPDP

### 1. Gain rural medicine clinical skills & competence:

The program provides a unique opportunity to live and work in a rural and/or remote primary health care settings with other rural medical practitioners and rural generalists, acquiring clinical experience in rural medicine, and provide opportunities to expand the prevocational rural trainees diagnostic and management skills.

### 2. Inspire a career in Rural Medicine, and understand the role of primary care.

Experienced rural medical supervisor's role model, mentor and guide the prevocational rural trainee whilst immersed in a primary health care environment. Regardless of their final career choice, having an understanding of the NT primary health care environment benefits the doctor and their patients throughout their medical journeys.

### 3. Externally funded junior doctor workforce:

Placement sites are funded by RGCU NT (through an Australian Government initiative) providing support to the various locations. The funding contributes to the base salary, travel to and from their placements, accommodation on site and may contribute to training and other resources needed for the placement.

## JFPDP Rotation Clinical Responsibilities

- Provide medical care in a rural context
- Provide secondary medical care
- Respond to medical emergencies (where applicable)
- Apply a population health approach that is relevant to the community profile where they are working
- Work with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other culturally diverse communities to improve health and wellbeing
- Practice medicine within an ethical, intellectual and professional framework (multi-disciplinary team)
- Provide safe medical care while working in geographic and professional isolation



## JFPDP General Scope of Practice

Prevocational rural trainees commence their rural rotations with different skills, knowledge and experience based in previous placements as medical students, internship or other post graduate experience.

It is expected that the trainee will initially watch/shadow the rural medical practitioners and nominated supervisor, along with other rural practitioners (multi-disciplinary teams). Trainees should work within their skills and knowledge, but suggested scope of practice includes;

- Establish a doctor-patient relationship, using a patient centred approach to care
- Conduct history & examination, consider investigations and management of patients
- Diagnose and manage common and important conditions
- Record all patient information in accordance with legal and professional standards
- Discuss cases with nominated supervisor/s, request feedback from clinical team members
- Work within own skill and competence levels, asking for help when needed.
- Follow practice protocols and provide culturally safe care
- After discussion with supervisor activate or support emergency patient retrieval, transport or evacuation if needed
- Discuss all cases with their nominated supervisors, becoming more autonomous throughout their rotation.

## Procedures:

Venepuncture, ECG, immunisation administration (including COVID), basic suturing, wound care & dressing, punch biopsy of skin lesion, apply plaster cast to fracture, perform point of care tests such a urine pregnancy test &FWT, use slit lamp, perform visual fields and visual acuity assessment.

## Medicare Provider Number

Prevocational rural trainees should have their Medicare Provider number prior to commencing. However, they can only 'Request and Refer' through their Medicare Provider number, they cannot receive any Medicare remuneration for themselves. The placement site decides if the supervisor or clinic (or NT Health) receive the payment

Placement sites can assist with the provider number application process as required.

## CONTACT DETAILS

The NT Rural Generalist Coordination Unit, sits within NT Health located in Darwin, administers the JFPDP for NT prevocational rural trainees. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the program please contact the team at the NT RGCU.

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