

ED 003 Recognition of Prior Learning for RACGP Registrars

1. Purpose

To inform registrars of the requirements and guidelines for the application and assessment of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the procedure associated with this.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to all registers enrolled in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Program and who are members of the RACGP.

3. Definitions

Please refer to MCCC TO 004 MCCC Acronyms, Abbreviations and Definitions Resource Document for a list of acronyms, abbreviations and definitions used throughout this document.

4. Principles

1. Eligibility requirements

Registrars must have completed **either** a minimum of twelve months of hospital post General Registration **OR** a minimum of two years in total of Australian or New Zealand accredited hospital by the start of GPT1 in order to be eligible to apply for RPL.

2. Registrars yet to undertake a post-graduate year (PGY) term (hospital units) in their first year on the AGPT program will not need to apply for RPL. All other registrars need to ascertain what type of RPL they require, e.g. for hospital time, extended skills or advanced training.
3. RPL will only be approved for a total of fifty-two (52) weeks.
4. Should the RPL application once submitted not be granted for the full 52 weeks (ie. insufficient evidence is provided) up to three months of the hospital year can be undertaken in general practice posts, at the discretion of the RACGP Censor. Although RACGP's policy indicates these posts can be undertaken at any stage of training, MCCC has the authority to nominate the timing of this additional training time. MCCC has mandated this time must be added to the end of the registrars core training time.
5. Once submitted, RPL outcomes may not be amended, augmented or revoked.
6. Details of what can be claimed are included in the RACGP's [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).

The following RACGP documents should also be read PRIOR to applying for RPL:

[Applying for Recognition of Prior Learning Guidance Document](#)

[Applying for Recognition of Prior Learning: FAQs](#)

5. Procedure

7. The RPL can be a lengthy and complex process and requires MCCC's Senior Medical Educators and Director of Medical Education to assess and make their recommendation prior to being sent to the college Censor.

Applications **must** be submitted **within the first two (2) months of commencement of training in general practice**. It should be completed as early as possible as the outcome will inform a registrar's training planning.

This timeframe is needed to ensure that RPL applications are submitted to the RACGP as mandated by the end of GPT1.

8. Guidelines for RPL are available on the MCCC website. An application for the hospital-based year of training must be made via the [online RPL portal](#) located on the MCCC website.

There is a declaration form that, which is required to be downloaded, signed by the registrar and a witness and re-uploaded to this portal. The application form must be completed in full and all required documents uploaded.

9. Upon receipt of the fully completed application, the Training Support Officer and REAPS will check the documentation is complete and forward it to the Regional Head of Education (RHE) for approval.

10. The RHE, or their delegate, will assess the RPL application. Applications will be assessed considering the applicant's knowledge, skills, and experience and training requirements.

11. The assessed application requires final sign off by MCCC's Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET).

12. The completed application, including MCCC's recommendation, will be forwarded to the RACGP Censor. The application will outline which posts and how many weeks are recommended for RPL. This may be part, or all, of the time initially requested by the registrar.

13. Once the RACGP receives the application, the Censor will conduct a final assessment and make a decision. The Censor will confirm the decision in writing to MCCC who will inform the registrar of the outcome.

If a registrar disagrees with the decision regarding RPL, he or she can discuss their concerns with their RHE. If a registrar wishes to appeal a decision, he or she can lodge an application for a review of their RPL with the RACGP.

6. Effect of RPL approved for less than 52 weeks on exam enrolment

AGPT Registrars must have been assessed as having completed 2 years full-time equivalent active training time, including all of GPT1 and GPT2, by the date of the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT).

Registrars who require, but do not receive, the full fifty-two (52) weeks of time credit for their RPL will not be eligible to sit exams until the completion of the full two (2) years.

7. Related documents or websites

MCCC documents

[Online RPL portal](#)

[EDF 003 Application for Extended Skills Post RPL \(RACGP\)](#)

[ED 002 Recognition of Prior Learning for ACRRM Registrars Policy & Procedure](#)

External organisation documents

[RACGP Policies, including Applications for Appeal and Reconsideration](#)

[RACGP Recognition or prior learning \(RPL\) Policy](#)

[RACGP Vocational Training Pathway – Requirements for Fellowship Policy](#)

7. Document History

Version	Summary of changes
1.0	First version
2.0	Change approval responsibilities
3.0	Reflect RACGP Policy update
4.0	Reflect RACGP Policy updates
5.0	Reflect RACGP Policy updates
6.0	Reflect change to when Additional Training time is to be taken
7.0	Minor changes