



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners

Member Guide

2010–2011



You will notice the college has made significant changes in this financial year. Along with our new look and feel, we are introducing innovative new services for our members.

This 2010–2011 member guide has been designed to help you get the most out of your membership to The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

This guide not only outlines the services available, but most importantly, how you can access the services and how they can assist you.

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Advocacy

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners plays an integral role in advocating on a range of primary issues in the profession

The RACGP's advocacy work includes health reform, improving the Medicare Benefits Scheme, more government investment into general practice, and increasing the recognition and reward for all general practitioners. Issues such as these influence the ability of GPs and their practice staff to provide safe and quality care.

"We have so many battles to fight and we need a strong united voice to represent all the GPs. The RACGP was formed by GPs to look after the welfare of GPs. All GPs need to get behind the RACGP to support the college's advocacy."

Dr Amy Ho, GP (New South Wales)

How can I find out about the RACGP's advocacy work?

The RACGP's monthly news tabloid, *Good Practice*, informs you about advocacy work at both a national and local level. Featuring a balanced mix of news and views, the tabloid includes information on state specific and rural advocacy, business practice, e-health and technology. *Good Practice* is included free with your *Australian Family Physician* subscription.

You can also find out about the RACGP's advocacy reports, submissions and outcomes online at www.racgp.org.au/reports.

How can I get involved?

We encourage members to participate in our advocacy work and invite you to provide your own input into college submissions by reviewing RACGP policy papers and submissions, or by voicing your opinion through your local RACGP Faculty Board or committees.

To find out more, contact your local faculty (see page 49 for details) or submit your feedback online at www.racgp.org.au/advocacy/feedback. Alternatively you can contact our Policy and Practice Support Unit via email at advocacy@racgp.org.au.



Education

The RACGP develops and maintains the standards for GP training and education from undergraduate education to early postgraduate years and beyond

You can choose from a suite of RACGP education services and products, which you can complete in your own time and in your own home, to assist you in maintaining your professional development.

This is ideal for busy GPs and registrars, rural and remote GPs, and those working part time, and will ultimately support you in delivering high quality patient care.

“The RACGP’s continuing professional development services are good value for money, high quality, easy to do in your own time, large choice of activities, flexible.”

Dr Lesley Skinner, GP (Western Australia)

QA&CPD Program

The RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Professional Development (QA&CPD) Program provides flexibility and a wide choice of education to meet the professional development needs of GPs.

The RACGP develops a range of educational resources, such as workshops, the **check** Program and *gplearning* which you can read about in the following pages. In addition, the QA&CPD Program has developed several Category 1 Active Learning Modules in important areas such as teaching medical students, registrar supervision and writing peer reviewed journal articles.

The QA&CPD Program also provides quality training and assessment of educational providers to ensure the quality and relevance of accredited education to GPs. General practitioners are encouraged to provide feedback to the QA&CPD Program about the quality and conduct of the accredited education activities they attend.

How will it help me?

The QA&CPD Program helps you to meet your professional development needs and to maintain your vocational recognition status with Medicare Australia.

To help you monitor your participation in the QA&CPD Program over the triennium, you can access your credit point statement records online at any time. Education activity calendars are also available online to assist your learning plan.

How can I access it?

Access to the QA&CPD Program is free for RACGP members.* For details about any specific CPD activities, visit www.racgp.org.au/qacpd or contact your local faculty (see page 49 for details).

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember GP	\$423

* Excludes registrars, residents and interns, retired members and all Affiliate members

check Program

check Program is an independent learning program produced monthly by the RACGP, and is accessible in a convenient and easy to use online format. Written by expert clinicians, the **check** Program focuses on a new topic each month, and provides a range of clinical cases relating to the topic of that month. Each case is followed by a series of questions to help you consider the important issues in the clinical history, examination, investigation, and management of a problem.

How will it help me?

Each **check** topic is relevant to GPs looking to upskill their clinical knowledge, and it attracts QA&CPD points, so it can also assist vocationally recognised GPs meet their CPD requirements. **check** is also helpful to undergraduate medical students, registrars studying for their Fellowship exam, medical educators, and international medical graduates (IMGs) preparing for the Australian Medical Council (AMC) exams.

How can I access it?

You can access the **check** Program online via the RACGP's *gplearning* website at www.gplearning.com.au. RACGP members, who are registered medical practitioners, automatically have access to **check** online. Simply login with the same username and password you use to log into the RACGP website.

If you can't remember your username and/or password, just call the *gplearning* helpdesk on 1800 284 789 and quote your RACGP number.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember GP	\$269.50 [^]

* Excludes student Affiliate members

[^] Further discounts apply for nonmember registrars, nonmember resident/interns, and all medical students (visit www.racgp.org.au/check)

gplearning

gplearning is the RACGP's online education service. Developed by GPs, *gplearning* aims to bring you high quality and relevant general practice education. Over 300 interactive, easy to use activities are available on *gplearning*. The activities cover diverse areas of general practice including women's health, acute serious illness, aged care, chronic conditions, practice management and diagnostic radiology.

How will it help me?

With access available 24/7, *gplearning* is a great service for time poor GPs or those who are in rural and remote locations where high quality education is not easily accessible.

You can manage and track your learning against the domains of general practice and the RACGP curriculum using the 'professional development viewer'. *gplearning* enables you to attract QA&CPD points.

“gplearning is a fantastic interactive educational resource with an extensive range of topics presented, covering the five domains of general practice. The material presented is of a high quality and is in a very user friendly format.”

Dr Sarah Meertens, part time GP (South Australia)

How can I access it?

Simply log in at **www.gplearning.com.au** with the same username and password you use to log into the RACGP website.

If you can't remember your username and/or password, just call the *gplearning* helpdesk on 1800 284 789 and quote your RACGP number.

How much is it?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember GP	\$250 [^]

[^] Annual subscription fee

Events and workshops

The RACGP faculties offer a range of events and workshops to support your professional development throughout the year. These include pre-examination tutorial sessions, mock clinical examinations, medical language courses, practice management workshops, Clinical Emergency Management Program™ workshops and emergency medicine updates. The workshops and events are held in metropolitan and regional locations throughout Australia.

The RACGP's annual conference also enables you to undertake professional development through various workshops, as well as enjoy networking and socialising with colleagues from around Australia.

How will they help me?

Learning in a face-to-face environment and sharing experiences with your peers offers many advantages. The workshops and events delivered by the RACGP faculties are of high quality.

How can I attend?

Visit www.racgp.org.au/events for details of upcoming events or contact your local faculty (see page 49 for details).

How much are they?

RACGP member	Special discounts off RRP
Nonmember	RRP [^]

[^] For recommended retail prices visit www.racgp.org.au/events

Clinical guidelines and resources

The RACGP produces a range of clinical publications to support GPs in their practice. Publications include guidelines for general practice, record keeping for general practice, standards and accreditation, tools for general practice and other reference handbooks. The RACGP has also now approved over 14 external publications for which RACGP members can receive discounts.

How will they help me?

These authoritative publications provide easy access to best practice patient management resources to help you provide the highest quality patient care, and assist you to manage your practice.

How can I access them?

To view the full list of publications or to place your order, visit **www.racgp.org.au/publications/orders** or email publications@racgp.org.au.

How much is it?

RACGP member	Up to 25% off RRP
Nonmember	RRP [^]

[^] Refer to the publications order form for recommended retail prices (www.racgp.org.au/publications)

MyGeneralPractice

MyGeneralPractice is the college's online resource centre that places clinical practice, education and business focused online resources at your fingertips. You can also easily access patient handouts, reference sites and practice management resources. MyGeneralPractice includes an extensive list of popular evidence based clinical resources.

How can I access it?

Visit **www.mygeneralpractice.com.au** using the same username and password you use to log into the RACGP website to access member only resources.

How much is it?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

DynaMed

DynaMed is designed to provide evidence based clinical management support to GPs, registrars, prevocational doctors, medical students and other health professionals, during the delivery of care.

The disease topic summaries, covering thousands of conditions, allow you to quickly find information on causes and risk factors; complications and associated conditions; history, physical, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment; and prevention and screening.

How will it help me?

DynaMed's versatile search options enable you to easily find topic summaries of diseases and drugs via keyword/phrase, or by browsing the A–Z listing. Using the best available evidence, it is designed to support your decision making during patient consultations.

How can I access it?

For immediate online access to DynaMed, visit **www.racgp.org.au/library/dynamed**. To access the handheld version, simply provide your name, RACGP number and email address to jane.ryan@racgp.org.au.

How much is it?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember GP	\$280 [^]

[^] Annual subscription based on American currency at the time of publication

Database resources

The RACGP John Murtagh Library has a range of Australian and international databases to support you in your research activities, continuing professional development, patient care and clinical work. The RACGP offers members free access to a suite of full text databases; the Informit AustHealth Collection; Harrison's Online; DynaMed, the evidence based point of care resource, and the AccessLange Collection of over 50 e-texts.

How will it help me?

Whether you are undertaking further studies, preparing assignments, engaged in research or preparing for examinations, the library's online databases can assist you. The subject-searchable collections cover a broad range of areas including general practice, medical education, Aboriginal health and general medicine. The flexible search functions enable you to save time and effort by directly accessing the article you need in full text or PDF formats.

eTOC

The electronic Table of Contents (eTOC) service is provided through The RACGP John Murtagh Library and enables busy GPs to keep up-to-date with the latest journal literature covering a range of topics of interest. Members can register to receive an alert when the latest eTOCs have been uploaded onto the website.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/library/etoc

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember	Prices vary^

* Australian registered medical practitioner members receive full access to the college library. Overseas members and Affiliate members receive free access to the library's online resources only

^ Contact The RACGP John Murtagh Library for further details

Podcasts, videos and audio digests

For members who want an alternative to traditional Fellowship examination preparation methods or wish to keep up-to-date with developments affecting general practice, a range of podcasts, videos and other audio journals are available via the library's web pages.

How will it help me?

The podcasts and audio digest programs enable you to listen to information on various general practice topics at home, in the office or even in the car.

How can I access these resources?

Books, journals, podcasts, videos, point-of-care resources and research databases can all be accessed through The RACGP John Murtagh Library. For further information visit **www.racgp.org.au/library**, or call the experienced college library staff on 03 8699 0519.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember	Prices vary^

* Australian registered medical practitioner members receive full access to the college library. Overseas members and Affiliate members receive free access to the library's online resources only

^ Contact The RACGP John Murtagh Library for further details



Fellowship

The RACGP Fellowship is the admission to the specialty of general practice and recognition from your college and your peers – a highlight of your career

The RACGP's assessment processes are held in high esteem around the world, with successful completion certifying competence to deliver unsupervised general practice services in any general practice setting in Australia: urban, regional, rural or remote.

It also offers international recognition such as reciprocal recognition of Fellowships with New Zealand and Ireland, and the delivery of a conjoint Fellowship in Hong Kong and Malaysia.

The RACGP currently offers three pathways to Fellowship: the college examination, practice based assessment, and the RACGP's new Specialist Pathway. The pathway you choose will depend on your previous experience and training, as all pathways have different eligibility criteria.

“After 20 years of being a GP I decided to sit the FRACGP exam, and I admired the process and fairness. By doing the exam and participating in the pre-examination course, I feel that I can better assist those who are new to (Australian) general practice, as I now not only understand the examination process but I understand their journey.”

Dr Peter Fox, GP (Victoria)

The college examination

The college examination is the most common assessment process to attaining RACGP Fellowship. It comprises two written segments (the applied knowledge test [AKT] and key feature problem [KFP]) and a clinical segment (the objective structured clinical examination [OSCE]). Each segment can be completed and paid for separately, within a 3 year period.

Am I eligible to enrol in the examination?

To be eligible to enrol in the college examination, you need to:

- have current medical registration in Australia
- be a current financial member of the RACGP
- have achieved certified competence in a recognised cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course within 36 months before enrolment
- have satisfied either the training requirements of a general practice registrar undertaking Australian General Practice Training, or the RACGP's eligibility requirements for a practice eligible GP.

For all eligibility criteria and for enrolment dates, visit

www.racgp.org.au/assessment.

How can I enrol?

Once enrolments open, you can make an expression of interest online at www.racgp.org.au/assessment/Pathways. If you are eligible, you will be sent an enrolment form and further instructions.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	\$5910 [^] (GST free)
Nonmember	Only available to eligible RACGP members

* Registrar and practice eligible GP members who meet the eligibility requirements

[^] Price for the three examination components, valid to 31 December 2010

Practice based assessment

Practice based assessment (PBA) is an alternative pathway to the college examination. Practice based assessment combines both assessment undertaken in candidates' clinical practice and submitted work, which may be completed over 6 months. Assessable components of PBA include video taped patient consultations, an oral KFP, and examiner clinical visits.

Practice eligible candidates can choose to attain RACGP Fellowship via the traditional college examination or via PBA.

Am I eligible for PBA?

To be eligible for PBA you need to:

- have at least 4 years full time approved general practice experience (or part time equivalent), including a minimum of 1 year general practice time in Australia
- have achieved certified competence in a recognised CPR course within 36 months before enrolment
- be a current financial member of the RACGP
- be in active clinical general practice
- have current medical registration in Australia.

How can I enrol?

Once enrolments open, you can make an expression of interest online at www.racgp.org.au/assessment/Pathways. If you are eligible, you will be sent an enrolment form and further instructions.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	\$5910 [^] (GST free)
Nonmember	Only available to eligible RACGP members

* Practice eligible GP members who meet the eligibility requirements

[^] Price for all PBA components, valid to 31 December 2010

Specialist Pathway

If you are an overseas trained doctor who would like to achieve RACGP Fellowship in order to be a GP in Australia, then the RACGP Specialist Pathway can assist. This new assessment pathway is designed for doctors who do not hold current Australian medical registration but have recognised general practice qualifications from overseas.

How will it help me?

The Specialist Pathway Program provides a pathway for overseas trained doctors to obtain Fellowship from the RACGP, taking into consideration their previous training in general practice. The pathway provides IMGs who want to work in Australia with a number of opportunities to benefit from the expertise of RACGP Fellows who will be available to provide assistance and support.

Am I eligible to participate?

Applicants for the Specialist Pathway are assessed by both the RACGP and the Australian Medical Council (AMC). As general practice qualifications vary between different countries, applicants should visit **www.racgp.org.au/assessment/Pathways** to determine their eligibility to apply for the program.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	From \$1540 [^] (GST free)
Nonmember	Only available to eligible RACGP members

* IMG-Affiliate members only

[^] Prices for the Specialist Pathway are dependent on eligibility for each of the three categories. The price quoted above is for Category 1 only. Category 2 is \$10 340 and Category 3 is \$10 840.

Contact assessment@racgp.org.au for further details. Prices are valid until 31 December 2010

Preparing for Fellowship

In addition to our **check** Program, and The RACGP John Murtagh Library resources, the college provides additional tools that may help your examination preparation.

Courses

The RACGP state and territory faculties provide hands-on pre-examination courses to familiarise you with all three components of the examination. These courses include examination techniques, clinical case discussions and a simulated OSCE. The courses have been well received, with one of our faculties reporting a 98% examination pass rate for those who participated in the RACGP pre-examination workshop. Contact your local faculty for further details and course dates (see page 49 for details).

John Murtagh's publications

John Murtagh's publications are an excellent resource for all GPs and 'budding GPs'. Recognised as the most influential publication for general practice and primary health care, *John Murtagh's General practice* (4th edn), is particularly useful for examination preparation. It contains detailed information on the management of the vast majority of problems presenting in routine clinical practice. RACGP members can purchase this publication at discounted rates at www.racgp.org.au/publications/orders.

Examination Support Online on gplearning

RACGP members enrolled in the written AKT or KFP segments of the college examination have access to an examination preparation program on *gplearning* for the examination segment(s) in which they are enrolled. Examination Support Online (ESO) offers a series of education modules relating to the RACGP examination, timed practice examinations, and a study group forum for the KFP. Candidates can access the online examination support program after their examination enrolment has been confirmed. Contact the *gplearning* helpdesk on 1800 284 789 for details.

DVDs

The RACGP National Rural Faculty offers DVD resources, to assist with the written examinations and clinical examination (via role plays). The DVDs are available for all examination candidates. DVDs can be ordered as a set or individually, with a discount for RACGP members. Visit www.racgp.org.au/rural/examprep or call 1800 636 764.



e-health

The RACGP recognises the importance of, and is paving the way to, a robust electronic health (e-health) system for Australia. The college will be developing some comprehensive tools to help you implement e-health initiatives in your practice

PrimaryCareSidebar™

The PrimaryCareSidebar™ is a user friendly online panel which is displayed on the right-hand side of your clinical desktop system and is compatible with leading practice software packages. PrimaryCareSidebar™ is a smart platform that can host a range of products which individual GPs and practices can select from to suit their needs. Amongst a number of functions, this innovative tool has PCS Prompts™ which recognises the open patient record in your clinical desktop system and will notify you of any follow-up activities required.

RACGP members receive two additional add-ons to the PrimaryCareSidebar™ in the 2010–2011 financial year: the RACGP's *Guideline for preventive activities in general practice* in electronic format (known as the e-‘red book’) and Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH) Online (single user licence).

How will it help me?

The e-‘red book’ provides best practice recommendations for long and short term preventive care, which you can easily access and search from your clinical desktop at point of care. Additionally, as part of the PrimaryCareSidebar™, the e-‘red book’ prompts you with outstanding preventive activities for the patient record you have opened.

AMH Online is an interactive and quick to search format, which enables you to access independent evidence based drug information at the point of care. Having AMH Online as part of the PrimaryCareSidebar™ makes it more efficient for you, as you can access this important tool at the point of care.

The PrimaryCareSidebar™ will be a one-stop-shop to facilitate your compliance with the e-health Practice Incentive Program (PIP).

How can I access it?

For further information or to purchase and download the RACGP member version of the PrimaryCareSidebar™, visit www.racgp.org.au/primarycaresidebar and download and complete a subscription form.

How much does it cost?

RACGP member*	\$469^
Nonmember	\$670^

* Australian registered medical practitioners only

^ Annual subscription fee

AMH Online

The Australian Medicines Handbook is widely recognised as the independent evidence based national drug reference tool. It is the only drug based reference handbook recommended by the Australian Government and is an important clinical resource for GPs and other prescribers concerned with the quality use of medicines.

How will it help me?

The AMH is a useful tool, which can help you during patient consultations. The inclusion of comparative information makes it unique to other drug reference tools on the market, as it allows you to compare drug information and make informed prescribing choices at point-of-care.

The AMH Online multiuser format meets the category criteria for the e-health PIP.

The AMH is also available in a range of other user friendly formats, including the handheld, mobile, CD-ROM and book.

How can I access it?

To purchase any AMH products at discounted RACGP member rates, visit www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits/amhdiscount or call AMH on 08 8303 6977, and quote your RACGP member number.

AMH Online (single user licence) will be also included free with the RACGP version of the PrimaryCareSidebar™ in 2010–2011 (see page 23 for details).

How much is it?

RACGP member	Up to 19% off RRP
Nonmember	RRP [^]

[^] Refer to the AMH order form for recommended retail prices

eTG complete

Therapeutic Guidelines Limited developed 'eTG complete' to meet the growing need for electronic evidence based resources in clinical practice. It integrates all 14 Therapeutic Guidelines titles including 'developmental disability', into a single searchable product.

Updated three times per year, with links to key references, full text articles, relevant Cochrane Library Reviews and other independent information sources such as Australian Prescriber, NPS RADAR, PBS data and Clinical Evidence (for subscribers), eTG complete is an essential resource for GPs.

How will it help me?

This excellent resource enables you to gain immediate access to over 3000 clinical topics via an index of more than 25 000 terms.

Technical enhancements, such as calculators for creatinine clearance and pneumonia severity index, are time saving extras which make eTG complete not only comprehensive but practical in daily clinical management.

The eTG complete multiuser licence is ideal for a practice or clinic and meets the category criteria for the e-health PIP.

How can I access it?

eTG complete is available in a range of formats: online access, online download, intranet access or CD-ROM. Therapeutic Guidelines is also available in a hardcopy format, and you can purchase individual titles or the full set of books.

To order any Therapeutic Guidelines products at discounted* member rates, download an order form at www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits/tg or call Therapeutic Guidelines on 1800 061 260 and quote your RACGP member number.

How much does it cost?

RACGP member	10% off RRP*
Nonmember	RRP [^]

* excludes 'mini TG' product

[^] Refer to TG order form for recommended retail prices

PCS Clinical Audit Tool™

The PCS Clinical Audit Tool™ (CAT) is a population health tool designed to help practices to analyse their clinical data and identify areas for quality and business improvement. The RACGP recognises CAT as the most user friendly and convenient tool to assist you in delivering high quality care.

How will it help me?

CAT provides a number of new ways to look at your practice's desktop data from a population perspective, and enables you to generate and export lists of your patients who fall within specific patient 'target groups'. For example, by using CAT you can quickly identify which patients in your practice have no allergy and smoking status recorded, which diabetic patients in your practice have not had an HbA1c in the last 12 months, which chronic disease patients have not had a GPMP billed at the practice, and so much more.

Not only does this information assist you with chronic disease management and identifying patients at risk, it can also assist with your practice accreditation and identify practice income opportunities.

How can I access it?

If your local Division of General Practice offers CAT, contact your division to arrange installation, or complete and submit the subscription form at www.racgp.org.au/cat and PCS will be able to assist you. To find out if CAT is available through your division, visit www.clinicalaudit.com.au/get for an up-to-date list.

If you do not have access to CAT through your local division, you can access CAT for your practice at the rates below per GP, including a discounted rate for RACGP GP members.

Simply download and complete the subscription form at www.racgp.org.au/cat and PCS will be able to assist you.

To find more information about CAT, and to download a trial version, visit www.clinicalaudit.com.au.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	\$160 [^]
Nonmember	\$200 [^]

* Australian registered medical practitioners only
[^] Annual subscription fee per FTE GP. An additional \$65 setup fee applies to all first time subscribers. Many Divisions of General Practice license CAT on behalf of their practices, so check with your local division to see if this access is available to you. CAT is licensed to 'the entire practice' and is charged per FTE GP within the practice – it is not available to 'selected GPs' within the practice. The 'per FTE GTP' licence also allows other practice staff (ie. practice managers and nurses) to access CAT

Oxygen: Intelligence in Practice

Oxygen will provide easy access to a suite of patient and practice management services, clinical tools, and education services. The products and services will provide a shared standard of practice processes delivered through the RACGP to improve delivery of care and patient outcomes, patient safety, increase practice efficiency and the quality of data and information management.

Delivered via a virtual desktop, Oxygen will utilise 'cloud' technology (web based) and will be compliant with both HL7 and the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) allowing interoperability with the patient centric data repository, the proposed shared e-health record and other e-health initiatives.

Oxygen is currently being developed by the college with a number of information technology partners and will be available in 2010–2011 to those who wish to become early adopters of the technology.

How will it help me?

In a nutshell, Oxygen will make your day-to-day practice easier and more efficient by providing all the practice management and patient centred resources at your fingertips. This includes templates for patient care planning, tools for e-prescribing and medication management, e-referral facilities, and secure communications with pathology/diagnostic imaging providers.

Oxygen also maximises the safety and security of your practice's IT systems through backups, firewalls and virus protection. It provides an instant communication platform for you including video conferencing, peer support, and practice efficiency.

How can I access it?

As Oxygen is still in its early stages of development delivery details are yet to be confirmed. Visit www.racgp.org.au/oxygen for updates.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember	\$1000 [^]

* Australian registered GPs only

[^] Annual subscription fee



Up-to-date

At the college we believe it is important that GPs remain informed and 'in the know' about the world of general practice. Thus we provide various mediums so that you can keep up-to-date using the means that best suits you

Australian Family Physician

Australian Family Physician (AFP) is the monthly MEDLINE listed and SCIE indexed, peer reviewed journal of the RACGP. *Australian Family Physician* aims to deliver an independent and stimulating voice that engages, informs, and contributes to ongoing educational needs and provides a forum for debate and discussion. *Australian Family Physician* aims to provide relevant, evidence based, clearly articulated information to Australian GPs to assist them in providing the highest quality patient care.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/afp

Fridayfacts

Fridayfacts is the college's national weekly newsletter distributed to GPs and clinics around the country by email and fax, reaching over 20 000 readers. The newsletter is devoted to delivering timely news, information and alerts for general practice teams every Friday.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/fridayfacts

RACGP website

The RACGP website contains information on all aspects of general practice. Members can update their contact details, submit feedback to the college, access up-to-date QA&CPD statements as well as many publications and clinical guidelines online.

Visit www.racgp.org.au

Good Practice

Good Practice is the RACGP's monthly news tabloid, highlighting issues that affect general practice in Australia today. *Good Practice* includes indepth features on business, state and rural based news, e-health and technology, QA&CPD news, and more. *Good Practice* is included free with your *AFP* subscription.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/goodpractice

How much is it?

RACGP member	FREE*
Nonmember	Prices vary^

* All services listed above are free to all RACGP members, except for *AFP* in hardcopy, which is not included in the free online student Affiliate package

^ Refer to contact details above or call the RACGP on 1800 331 626



Rural

The RACGP is committed to supporting members in rural and remote areas and offers a range of specialised rural educational services through a dedicated National Rural Faculty

The National Rural Faculty (NRF) provides specialised services to support the specific needs of those working in rural and remote locations. Due to the unique geographical and demographic features rural and remote GPs are required to manage complex health presentations.

The college understands that rural and remote GPs are highly regarded within their community and the strong sense of community spirit makes working in rural and remote general practice rewarding. Thus at the college we aim to provide you with the right support tools in order to serve the healthcare of your community.

“I appreciate the support from the National Rural Faculty in helping me with procedural training grants – as a new rural GP, it is a bit confusing but the NRF provided excellent advice and support and made the whole process painless.”
Dr Peter Maguire, GP (Western Australia)

Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice

If you have an interest in rural and procedural practice, you can work toward the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP), a formal qualification that recognises advanced rural skills and additional rural general practice training undertaken by GPs.

Am I eligible to enrol in the FARGP?

To be eligible for FARGP, registrars need to:

- have undertaken a minimum of 1 year of training in accredited rural training posts
- hold or be enrolled in the Fellowship of the RACGP award
- be a current financial member of the RACGP
- have undertaken 1 year in an accredited advanced rural skills training post.

To be eligible for FARGP, practising GPs need to:

- have 4 years full time approved general practice experience (or part time equivalent), including 1 year in Australian rural general practice, and 1 year in a post deemed to be equivalent to an advanced rural skills post
- hold or be enrolled in the FRACGP award
- be a current financial member of the RACGP
- be in active clinical general practice (minimum three sessions per week).

Advanced rural skills training

An important prerequisite or corequisite for the FARGP award is the completion of an advanced rural skills post (ARSP) or experience in a post equivalent. Advanced rural skills training must be taken in an RACGP accredited ARSP and is available in a range of clinical areas including mental health, obstetrics, anaesthetics, surgery, emergency medicine, Aboriginal health, small town general practice, child and adolescent health and adult internal medicine. Advanced rural skills training is designed to strengthen your procedural skills in rural general practice.

National Rural Faculty

The RACGP has established the NRF to support the specific needs of rural and remote GPs (see page 37 for details).

Other rural education services

You can participate in a suite of face-to-face workshops, specifically focusing on rural general practice. Workshops vary from 2–8 hours and are conducted by the NRF throughout Australia.

For details about all your rural education services, visit www.racgp.org.au/rural or call the NRF on 1800 636 764.

How much is it?

RACGP member	Prices vary [^]
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

[^] Visit www.racgp.org.au/rural or call 1800 636 764 for details



Faculties

The RACGP is committed to further assisting and guiding you along your path of professional development. The college understands the importance of providing members with a 'point of contact' in every state and believes it is important that members have a 'local meeting place' to discuss important matters

Members of the RACGP are automatically granted membership of their state/territory faculty. Members are also able to join the RACGP's National Rural Faculty, Faculty of Specific Interests and National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

State/territory faculties

The RACGP state/territory faculties support collegiality through local leadership, education, and events, and provide a local contact point for members.

How will it help me?

Your state/territory faculty provides local advocacy support and leadership for general practice. Each faculty is supported through member committees which inform, advise and assist the college to undertake its key roles of education, research, quality care and improving the recognition and reward of GPs.

Your faculty can also assist when you need help with specific matters related to your professional development. The FRACGP examination, pre-examination workshops and a range of QA&CPD Program activities are all delivered through your local faculty.

How can I get involved in my faculty?

Your faculty board and committees provide you with the opportunity to contribute to the college's direction, and ultimately shape the future of general practice. Members can also share their expertise and promote the profession to 'budding' GPs by speaking at events, helping to run the Fellowship examination, and much more.

How can I contact my local faculty?

Visit your local faculty at the office address, or we invite you to call, email, or fax us with any ideas, queries, or concerns (see page 49 for details).

How much is state/territory faculty membership?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

National Rural Faculty

Representing over 8000 members, the RACGP NRF provides advocacy and support for rural GPs. The faculty enables the college to serve its rural and remote constituents and promotes the interests, aims and objectives of the college amongst this group.

How will it help me?

The NRF offers a range of services to specifically support the needs of rural and remote GPs including the FARGP award, educational services, and advocacy for the needs of local GPs.

The NRF helps eligible procedural and emergency medicine GPs practising in rural and remote areas to access financial assistance for skills maintenance and upskilling in their respective disciplines. This occurs through the Rural Procedural Grants Program which is facilitated by the NRF. The faculty also assists rural and remote GPs to receive relief through increased locum services, via the Rural Locum Education Assistance Program.

Additionally, the NRF provides specific support for IMGs who are new to Australian general practice. The NRF's IMG Peer Mentor Network provides a professional peer to help orient IMGs adequately to the Australian health system and assist them with local cultural adaptation.

How can I join the NRF?

Membership of the NRF is automatic for members living or working in rural and remote areas.

Any college member with an interest in rural or remote general practice may also choose to join the NRF regardless of their location. To join or find out more, visit www.racgp.org.au/rural or call 1800 636 764.

How much is NRF membership?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

Faculty of Specific Interests

The Faculty of Specific Interests (FSI) is a newly created faculty which recognises the additional interests and expertise held by GPs in selected areas of clinical practice. The faculty is divided into three tiers: Networks, Working Groups and Chapters. These tiers represent the level of activity the group is undertaking toward a formal recognition process for that specific interest area, with networks offering the least formal level of activity. Membership of the faculty provides you with the opportunity to promote, share and develop knowledge materials with other members who have the same interests.

The faculty also offers Fellows the unique opportunity to partake in a Fellowship of that specific interest. Like the RACGP Fellowship, this is considered a highly prestigious achievement and provides an opportunity for your efforts to be formally recognised.

Am I eligible to become a member of the FSI?

Membership of existing Networks, Working Groups or Chapters is open to any member of the college, or if your specific interest is not represented by an existing group, you can initiate a new Network.

To join an existing specific interest tier, apply to form a new Network or to find out more about the faculty, visit www.racgp.org.au/fsi or call 1800 090 588.

How much is membership to this faculty?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is one of Australia's highest health priorities. As a result, the RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health has been developed to help 'close the gap'.

The RACGP is committed to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health needs. By understanding their cultural context we hope to advocate for culturally appropriate health delivery systems which will improve health outcomes.

If you have an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health you may want to consider joining the National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The faculty board will be overseeing a number of education and advocacy initiatives in 2010 and will hold its first annual general meeting in 2011.

Am I eligible to become a member of this faculty?

Membership of the new faculty is open to all members of the RACGP.

To join the new faculty or to find out more, visit www.racgp.org.au/aboriginalhealth or call 03 8699 0499.

How much is membership to this faculty?

RACGP member	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members



Lifestyle

The college's primary aim is to support you in your pursuit of clinical excellence and ensure high quality clinical practice, education and research

We recognise that you have other important needs that indirectly influence your professional role and have developed a relationship with a range of corporate partners in areas such as travel, finance, lifestyle and your own wellbeing

Your wellbeing

The GP Support Program is a free and confidential service to help RACGP members cope with life's stressors. The counselling methodology is a short term, cognitive behavioural approach for the treatment of many types of emotional, behavioural and interpersonal issues. The service is funded by the RACGP and delivered by qualified, experienced psychologists from IPS Worldwide® (an Australian company with over 25 years experience in this field).

How will it help me?

If you are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety as a result of conflict, relationship issues, concerns about children, work pressures, depression or a range of other stressors, the GP Support Program offers counselling and coaching to help you in managing these issues.

How can I access it?

Members* can choose between face-to-face, telephone or online counselling during business hours. Appointments need to be made in advance for any of these options by calling 1300 366 789 during business hours. For crisis situations or traumatic incidents, call 1800 451 138 (24 hours/7 days). For further information, visit www.racgp.org.au/gpsupport.

How much is it?

RACGP member*	FREE
Nonmember	Only available to RACGP members

* RACGP members who are Australian registered medical practitioners can access three free sessions per presenting issue, valued at \$150 each

Finance and insurance products

As part of our commitment to supporting our members, the RACGP works with our valued partners to deliver financial and insurance benefits that meet your everyday needs. We are constantly negotiating better offers so that our members can benefit.

Credit cards via American Express

Superior benefits and attractive financial savings with RACGP American Express Gold and Platinum Credit Cards.

Insurance products via ING Insurances

Straightforward life insurance and income protection cover for members of RACGP.

Residential and investment property loans via Proloan

Receive \$500 credit with each Proloan residential and investment loan, which you can use to purchase any RACGP products and/or services.

Loans via Medfin

Receive a \$200 credit with each Medfin car or practice loan, or \$500 with each Medfin residential investment property loan, which you can use to purchase any RACGP products and/or services.*

* Terms and conditions, fees and charges apply. Approved applicants only

To take advantage of these offers or to find out more, visit www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits or call 1800 331 626

Travel and lifestyle services

When relaxing is on your mind the college offers a suite of travel and lifestyle benefits to help. Our corporate partners offer a wide range of discounts to ensure that you can enjoy the finer things in life.

The Qantas Club

Special discounts on Qantas Club membership, including the joining rate and renewal rates for 1 and 2 year memberships.

Hertz car rental

Save on your car rentals with Hertz including discounts off the best daily rate, periodic bonus offers and more.

Travelscene

Dedicated travel service with Travelscene American Express which provides access to special offers and premium service.

R.M. Williams

Discount on products such as footwear, apparel and accessories when you purchase online.

Medical emergency kits

The college distributes a range of clinical practice kits and products to provide all the equipment you need during medical emergency situations. The kits are helpful for rural, remote and metropolitan GPs.

Emergency Response Kit

The Emergency Response Kit is the ideal response bag for GPs in the event of an emergency, and members receive a discount off the recommended retail price. Perfect to keep in the car.

Laerdal Heartstart First Aid Defibrillator

This defibrillator gives you the confidence to know you can save a life even before help arrives, and members receive a discount off the recommended retail price.

gpkit for medical emergencies

Members receive a discount off this essential all-in-one emergency kit with equipment, accessories and emergency drugs for managing emergencies in the community.



Member

The RACGP is dedicated to supporting GPs and 'budding GPs' in their journey of general practice. As such, the college offers a range of membership categories and types to suite the different needs and stages of your career

General practitioners can join the RACGP in four main membership categories, as provided under the college's constitution.

Fellow*

RACGP Fellows who have successfully completed all college Fellowship assessment requirements and have satisfied college council of their competence through training and/or experience. Fellows have full voting rights

Member*

Medical practitioners who have a minimum of 7 years postgraduate medical experience, of which 5 years (or a part time equivalent to a maximum of 10 years) is in general practice, are eligible to apply for 'full' RACGP Membership. These 'full' Members have full voting rights

Associate*

Registered medical practitioners who are not Fellows or 'full' Members are categorised as Associate members under the RACGP constitution. Associate members do not have full voting rights. If an Associate member wishes to vote at all general meetings of the college, they can either apply for and undertake the RACGP Fellowship requirements, or apply for 'full' RACGP Membership

Registrar Associate

General practice registrars who are participating in general practice vocational training, are eligible to become Registrar Associate members. Registrar Associate members have full voting rights

* There is no difference in the membership rates, benefits or services provided to Fellows, 'full' Members and Associate members – other than the option to vote should members so choose

Affiliate memberships

In addition to the membership categories, the college also provides support to specific groups through Affiliated membership.

Student

Medical students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate course approved by an Australian medical school, including a Bachelor of Medicine or a Bachelor of Biomedical Science.

By taking up Affiliate membership, medical students receive access to a range of resources and tools to assist their medical education, assignments and examination preparation.

IMG-Affiliate

International medical graduates who are permanent residents in Australia, but are not currently registered as medical practitioners in Australia, or who are not eligible for registration as medical practitioners in Australia. This category is designed to provide extra support to help you attain your medical registration in Australia.

International medical graduates who are currently practising in Australia, or eligible to practise in Australia, are able to join the college as an Associate, Member or Fellow (depending on their qualifications and experience) and should not be enrolled in this IMG-Affiliate category.

Visit www.racgp.org.au/membership/categories for more information on membership categories (including the appropriate application forms), or call 1800 331 626.

The RACGP understands that GPs face a range of options for balancing their work and lifestyle needs, or may be going through different stages in their career. The college has created a broad range of membership types that cater to this diversity.

Australian registered medical practitioners

Full Time	GP working more than 20 hours per week
GP Spouse/ Partner	Both the GP and the GP's spouse or partner are in full time general practice
New Fellow	New RACGP Fellow ratified in the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010
Part Time, or Not in Active Clinical General Practice	GP working fewer than 20 hours per week; a GP who is not currently in active clinical general practice; a specialist practising predominately in hospitals; or a medical practitioner currently employed in other fields of the health sector
Member on Parental, Sick or other Leave	Member who is on parental or extended sick leave, and who does not intend to practise during the financial year
General Practice Registrar	General practice registrars enrolled with an approved Australian registered training provider can join the RACGP as Registrar Associates
Resident and Intern	Residents and interns who may be considering a career in general practice and are working in a hospital can join the RACGP as Associates
Senior member	Practising GP who is aged 70 years or older
Retired member	GP who has permanently retired from general practice
Life member	Member for more than 35 consecutive years

Overseas registered medical practitioners

Overseas member	Registered medical practitioner residing overseas for the majority of the financial year
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Visit www.racgp.org.au/membership for more information on membership types and rates, or call 1800 331 626.

We're here to help you

National call centre and member helpline

1800 331 626

The national call centre and member helpline is a free-call service from anywhere in Australia and supports existing and prospective members with membership, QA&CPD payments, new membership applications, updating contact details, updating member categories and general queries across the college.

Advocacy		www.racgp.org.au/advocacy
AMH Online	08 8303 6977	www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits/amhdiscount
Assessment/Fellowship	1800 626 901	www.racgp.org.au/assessment
CAT	1800 762 993	www.racgp.org.au/cat
check Program	03 8699 0495	www.racgp.org.au/check
Corporate partner offers	1800 331 626	www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits
e-health initiatives		www.racgp.org.au/ehealthfutures
Events/workshops		www.racgp.org.au/events
Faculty of Specific Interests	1800 090 588	www.racgp.org.au/fsi
gplearning	1800 284 789	www.gplearning.com.au
GP Support Program	1300 366 789	www.racgp.org.au/gpsupport
Membership	1800 331 626	www.racgp.org.au/membership
National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	03 8699 0499	www.racgp.org.au/aboriginalhealth
National Rural Faculty	1800 636 764	www.racgp.org.au/rural
Oxygen		www.racgp.org.au/oxygen
Publications	03 8699 0495	www.racgp.org.au/publications
QA&CPD Program	03 8699 0510	www.racgp.org.au/qacpd
The RACGP John Murtagh Library	03 8699 0519	www.racgp.org.au/library
Therapeutic Guidelines	1800 061 260	www.racgp.org.au/memberbenefits/tg

Faculty contact details

New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Faculty

Level 7, 12 Mount Street, NORTH SYDNEY*

tel 02 9886 4700 | **fax** 02 9886 4790 | **email** nswactmember@racgp.org.au

Victoria Faculty

1 Palmerston Crescent, SOUTH MELBOURNE

tel 03 8699 0488 | **fax** 03 8699 0560 | **email** vicmember@racgp.org.au

Queensland Faculty

Level 1, 201 Logan Road, BURANDA*

tel 07 3456 8944 | **fax** 07 3391 7009 | **email** qldmember@racgp.org.au

North Queensland sub-Faculty

Ground Floor, School of Medicine, James Cook University, TOWNSVILLE

tel 07 4781 5941 | **fax** 07 4781 5870 | **email** nq.subfaculty@racgp.org.au

South Australia and Northern Territory Faculty

15 Gover Street, NORTH ADELAIDE

tel 08 8267 8310 | **fax** 08 8267 8319 | **email** sant.faculty@racgp.org.au

Western Australia Faculty

328 Stirling Highway, CLAREMONT*

tel 08 9489 9555 | **fax** 08 9489 9544 | **email** wamember@racgp.org.au

Tasmania Faculty

206 New Town Road, NEW TOWN

tel 03 6278 1644 | **fax** 03 6278 2159 | **email** tasmember@racgp.org.au

* Contact your faculty for postal addresses

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