



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

RURAL OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1 July 2023



RURAL OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM

Important Notice:

From 1 January 2019, the Rural Other Medical Practitioners Program (the ROMPs Program) will not be accepting new applications to join the Program.

The ROMPs Program ceased on 30 June 2023. Medical practitioners already on the ROMPs Program can continue in the Program and access A1 Medicare rebates until 30 June 2025 under the Other Medical Practitioners Extension Program (OMPEP).

For further information regarding OMPEP program guidelines please visit:

[\(HYPERLINK\)](#)

These Guidelines have effect from 1 July 2023.

1. Introduction

The Rural Other Medical Practitioners Program (the ROMPs Program) commenced in January 2001, and is administered by Services Australia through Medicare on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care. All decisions under the Program are made by senior and executive officers in the Department of Health and Aged Care who are authorised by the Minister for Health and Aged Care (Authorised Persons).

The ROMPs Program provides the higher A1 Medicare rebate to eligible non-vocationally recognised medical practitioners who provide general practitioner services in designated rural and remote areas of Australia, and who express an interest in undertaking a pathway to Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

Participants in the ROMPs Program must provide services in any of the following designated locations:

- Rural, Remote Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classifications 4-7;
- Defined 'areas of consideration'; or
- Approved RRMA 3 locations which have significant medical workforce shortages.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for this Program persons must:

- be a registered or licensed as a medical practitioner with the Medical Board of Australia;

- be a participant in an Other Medical Practitioners (OMPs) program on 30 June 2023;
 - be a non-vocationally recognised medical practitioner or not hold fellowship of a general practice college;
 - be eligible to claim Medicare benefits; and
- express an interest in achieving Fellowship of the RACGP or the ACRRM.

OMPs programs are:

- Medicare Plus for Other Medical Practitioners Program (MOMPs Program)
- Rural Other Medical Practitioners Program (ROMPs Program)
- After Hours Other Medical Practitioners Program (AHOMPs Program)
- Outer Metropolitan Other Medical Practitioners Program (OMOMPs Program)

3. Eligible Locations

The ROMPs Program utilised the RRMA Classification system. Areas are classified from 1 (Capital) to 7 (Other Remote Area). The ROMPs Program applies to areas classified as RRMA 4-7. In general, RRMA 4-7 classifications cover small rural centres (population of less than 25,000 people), remote centres and smaller rural and remote areas.

It is important to note that the distance of the location from major metropolitan areas is a significant factor in determining the RRMA classification. As a result, small rural centres in close proximity to major metropolitan areas may not fall within the RRMA 4-7 range.

Areas of consideration are areas that are not classified RRMA 4-7 locations but exhibit the characteristics of rural areas. At the discretion of the Authorised Person RRMA 3 locations with significant workforce shortages can be deemed eligible areas for the purposes of the ROMPs Program.

4. Authorised Person's Discretion

The Authorised Person for the ROMPs Program will have full discretion to make decisions on all matters relating to the administration of the Program, including but not limited to approval of locations and medical practitioners.

5. Change of details

Whilst participating in this Program, medical practitioners must:

- ensure their provider number is correct and up to date;

- ensure that the information provided to the Department of Health and Aged Care is accurate and current;
- advise the Department of Health and Aged Care of any change in circumstances which is relevant to continued eligibility for the Program; and
- ensure any change in circumstances is provided in writing to the Authorised Person.

6. Withdrawal from Program

Medical Practitioners may withdraw from the Program at any time by providing written notice to the Department of Health and Aged Care.

The Department of Health and Aged Care will confirm the medical practitioner's withdrawal from the Program.

7. Program Contact Details

Department of Health and Aged Care

To obtain further information regarding the program, contact:

OMPs@health.gov.au

For further information regarding continuing professional development contact:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

RACGP National Office

100 Wellington Parade

East Melbourne, VIC, 3002

Ph: 1800 472 247

[The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](http://www.racgp.org.au) (www.racgp.org.au)

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

ACRRM

GPO Box 2507

Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Ph: 1800 223 226

[Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](http://www.acrrm.org.au) (www.acrrm.org.au)

