



# Workforce Incentive Program – Rural Advanced Skills Stream fact sheet

March 2025

## What is the WIP – Rural Advanced Skills payment

The Workforce Incentive Program (WIP) – Rural Advanced Skills Stream provides annual payments to Rural Generalists (RGs) and General Practitioners (GPs) with advanced skills delivering emergency and advanced skills services in Modified Monash (MM) 3–7 locations.

- **Payment Amount:** Eligible RGs and GPs can receive up to \$21,000 per year.
- **Payments Available:** For services delivered between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025.

## Purpose

To improve access to high quality care in rural and remote communities, the WIP – Rural Advanced Skills payment rewards/ recognises doctors who provide a minimum number of primary care and emergency and/or advanced skill services in rural and remote (MM 3–7) locations.

Eligible doctors, including Rural Generalists and GPs with advanced skills, can apply for the incentive.

## Who is eligible

Vocationally registered General Practitioners (GP) and Rural Generalists (RGs) providing comprehensive primary care in MM 3-7 in addition to delivering emergency care and/or advanced skill services.

Non-Vocationally registered doctors on an approved GP/RG training pathway and working in primary care.

## Eligibility criteria

- ✓ Provide Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) primary care services (or equivalent in MM6-7) in an MM 3–7 location.
- ✓ Hold a valid Medicare Provider Number (exempt for state government clinics in MM6-7) for the location that services are being delivered.
- ✓ Meet minimum service thresholds for primary care and advanced skills.
- ✓ Provide supporting documentation (proof of advanced skills and employer verification).
- ✓ Register bank account details with Services Australia via Health Professional Online Services (HPOS).

## Payments

Payments are:

- based on the number of advanced skills and/or emergency rosters worked in eligible locations during a **12-month assessment period**; and
- administered by **Services Australia**.

Eligible applicants can claim **either or both payment streams** where they meet eligibility requirements and reach service thresholds for that stream.

Stream	Annual Payment Range	Eligibility
Stream 1: Emergency Medicine	\$4,000 - \$10,500	Emergency/emergency after hours care in a hospital, Medicare Urgent Care Clinic or Multi-Purpose Service.
Stream 2: Advanced Skills	\$4,000 - \$10,500	Doctors with <b>RACGP</b> or <b>ACRRM</b> recognised qualifications in the following advanced skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Adult internal medicine</li><li>○ Anaesthesia</li><li>○ Obstetrics and gynaecology</li><li>○ Paediatrics and child health</li><li>○ Palliative care</li><li>○ Remote medicine</li><li>○ Small town rural general practice</li><li>○ Surgery</li><li>○ First Nations health (or required experience as per guidelines)</li><li>○ Mental health (or required experience as per guidelines).</li></ul>

## How to Apply

Eligible applicants can submit an online application for assessment to the Rural Workforce Agency in the state or territory that they currently work or provide the majority of services.

## Key Reminders

- ✓ Eligible applicants can apply **up to three times** until **31 March 2026** for services provided in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 calendar years.
  - You can still claim for services provided in 2023, provided you claim before 31 March 2026.
- ✓ Applicants who received a **2023 payment** can **apply for services provided in 2024**, as soon as the required service levels have been completed for the maximum payment.
- ✓ Eligible services, including primary care telehealth services, are based on the **practice or outreach location**, regardless of the medical practitioner or patient address.
- ✓ **Scan the QR code** for more information, program guidelines, online application and FAQs.

