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](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-04/workforce-incentive-program-rural-advanced-skills-guidelines.pdf) 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](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/hpos?context=20) (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 RACGP or ACRRM recognised qualifications in the following advanced skills: * Adult internal medicine
* Anaesthesia
* Obstetrics and gynaecology
* Paediatrics and child health
* Palliative care
* Remote medicine
* Small town rural general practice
* Surgery
* First Nations health (or required experience as per guidelines)
* Mental health (or required experience as per guidelines).
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# How to Apply

Eligible applicants can submit an [online application](https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/workforce-incentive-program/workforce-incentive-program-rural-advanced-skills-stream/apply-for-the-rural-advanced-skills-payment) 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.