



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

# RURAL OTHER MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1 July 2026



## **Important Notice:**

The Rural Other Medical Practitioners (ROMPs) program was closed by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department) on 30 June 2023.

Eligible medical practitioners currently enrolled in the Other Medical Practitioners Extension Program (OMPEP) via their participation in the ROMPs program on 30 June 2023 can continue accessing GP Medicare rebates until 30 June 2030 providing they continue to meet the eligibility requirements of the ROMPs legacy program.

These Guidelines have effect from 1 July 2026 and replace all previous versions of the Guidelines.

### **1. Introduction**

The ROMPs program commenced in January 2001 and was administered by Services Australia on behalf of the department. All decisions under the program are made by senior and executive officers in the department who are authorised by the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (Authorised Persons).

The ROMPs program provided access to higher Medicare rebates to eligible medical practitioners who:

- provided GP services in designated rural and remote areas of Australia, and
- were registered with an Australian Medical Board on or after 1 January 1996, and
- are actively participating on a training program placement with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) that leads to specialist registration in general practice with the Medical Board of Australia.

Participants in the OMPEP/ROMPs program must provide services in any of the following designated locations:

- Rural, Remote Metropolitan Area (RRMA) classification 4 to 7, or
- departmental approved RRMA classification 3 locations which have significant medical workforce shortages.

### **2. Eligibility**

To be eligible for this program, persons must:

- be a registered as a medical practitioner with the Medical Board of Australia.
- be an active participant in the OMPEP on 1 July 2026.
- not hold specialist registration in general practice.
- be eligible to claim Medicare benefits.

- be actively participating on a training program with the RACGP or ACRRM that leads to specialist registration in general practice with the Medical Board of Australia.

### **3. Authorised Person's Discretion**

The Authorised Person for the ROMPs/OMPEP 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 approval of eligible medical practitioners.

### **4. Change of details**

Whilst participating in the program, medical practitioners must:

- ensure they comply with the requirements of these guidelines.
- ensure their Medicare provider number is correct and up to date.
- ensure information provided to the department is accurate and current.
- advise the department of any change in circumstances relevant to continued eligibility in the OMPEP program.

### **5. Withdrawal from the program**

Medical practitioners may withdraw from the OMPEP program at any time by providing written notice to the department.

The department will confirm the medical practitioner's withdrawal from the program.

### **6. Further information**

Further information about the OMPEP program is available at:

- [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and search "Other Medical Practitioners programs"
- [OMPS@health.gov.au](mailto:OMPS@health.gov.au)