

# GPRIP Fact Sheet

## Retention component

### Q1.1 What is the new General Practice Rural Incentives Program?

- The new General Practice Rural Incentives Program (GPRIP) will replace the Registrars Rural Incentive Payments Scheme (RRIPS), which applied to GP registrars on the AGPT program, and the Rural Retention Program, which applied to GPs. GPRIP will also include a Relocation Incentive Grant component.
- The new incentives program will provide a consistent set of incentive payments that applies on an equivalent basis for GPs and registrars practicing in rural locations. Under RRIPS, GP registrars were eligible for higher grant payments. This new program will streamline the administration of incentive payments and provide parity between GPs and GP registrars.
- The level of incentives will now be based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Areas (ASGC-RA) classification system.

### Q1.2 When will the General Practice Rural Incentives Program Start?

- GPRIP will start from 1 July 2010. For GPs, this means payments falling due from the September quarter onwards will be calculated according to the new rules.

### Q1.3 How will GPRIP work for GPs?

- The retention component will work in a similar way to the current Rural Retention Program. However, the payment rates and qualifying periods will change. Incentives will be paid according to a sliding scale based on the ASGC-RA category and the length of time in a rural location outlined below.

ASGC-RA Classification	Period of time (years) in a rural location				
	0.5	1	2	3-4	5+
RA 2	-	\$2,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$12,000
RA 3	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$13,000	\$18,000
RA 4	\$5,500	\$8,000	\$13,000	\$18,000	\$27,000
RA 5	\$8,000	\$13,000	\$18,000	\$27,000	\$47,000

- Under GPRIP, doctors will become eligible for an initial payment earlier and will be able to receive much higher retention payments than were previously available to GPs.

### Q1.4 Which payment rate will I receive if I have already been receiving payments under the current Rural Retention Program?

- The payment rate will be determined based on the number of years (measured in active quarters) of service the doctor has completed in one or more ASGC-RA 2-5 locations.

**Q1.5 What will happen if the new payment rate is lower than it would have been under the Rural Retention Program?**

- *Receiving RRP payments*  
Doctors that become eligible for an RRP payment before 1 July 2010 (payments falling on or before the June quarter 2010) and have maintained their continuous service requirements will receive whichever is the greater of the new payment rate or the payment they would have received had the Rural Retention Program continued.
- *Completing RRP qualifying period*  
Doctors that, at 1 July 2010, are completing a qualifying period under the Rural Retention Program and have maintained their continuous service requirements will receive whichever is the greater of the new payment rate or the payment they would have received had the Rural Retention Program continued.
- *New to rural areas from 1 July 2010*  
Doctors that move to a rural area after 1 July 2010 will be subject to the GPRIP payment rates and rules.

**Q1.6 Are Specialists eligible for GPRIP?**

- GPRIP is aimed at retaining general practitioners. The services eligible for GPs will be the same as those currently eligible under the Rural Retention Program. These are clinical services that are equivalent to the General Medical Services Section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule book. This includes:

- Category 1 – Professional attendances
- Category 2 – Diagnostic procedures and investigations
- Category 3 – Therapeutic services

Eligible services do not include diagnostic imaging, pathology services, dentistry or optometry.

**Q1.7 What is the ASGC-RA category of my practice location? How can I find out which ASGC-RA category a location is in?**

- A web site has been established for people to determine the ASGC-RA category of any location. This can be accessed by visiting [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) and clicking the link on the homepage called Remoteness Area Locator.

**Q1.8 Will there continue to be a Flexible Payments System under GPRIP?**

Yes. The Flexible Payments System will continue but assessment will transfer to the new rules for the Program.

**Q1.9 Will my eligibility accrued as a Registrar continue when I become a GP?**

- Eligibility gained by Registrars can be retained on becoming a GP. For this to happen the period from the last Registrar payment to the first GP payment must satisfy the continuous service requirements under the rules for GPs (this means maintaining four active quarters in every eight).