

MORE DOCTORS FOR RURAL AUSTRALIA PROGRAM (MDRAP)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Effective Date: Wednesday, 17 November 2021

The MDRAP is listed in the Health Insurance Regulations 2018 (the Regulations) as an approved program under 3GA of the Act. Rural Workforce Agencies (RWA) in each State and the Northern Territory have delegated authority as the Specified Body to administer the MDRAP on behalf of the Department of Health.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Who is eligible for MDRAP?	3
2. How do I apply?	3
3. How long is the program?.....	3
4. What do I need to be eligible on MDRAP?	3
5. How long can I be on MDRAP?	3
6. Where can I practice?	3
7. What can I claim?.....	4
8. What will I have to do during my placement on the program?	4
9. Will I have to be supervised?.....	4
10. What can I claim on Medicare Benefits Schedule?	4
11. I don't have an offer of employment; can Health Workforce Queensland help me with recruitment to an eligible practice location?	4
12. How will the MDRAP affect my Other Medical Practitioner program (OMPs).....	4
13. How does MDRAP affect my existing 3GA placement?	5
14. What are the GP college Fellowship Programs?.....	5
15. How do I apply for a location Interstate?	5
16. Can I use a 19AB Replacement for an MDRAP Placement?.....	5
17. Do I have to be an Australian Resident to apply for MDRAP?.....	5
18. I do not have GP experience; can I apply for MDRAP?.....	5
19. What kind of Support can I expect if I am approved on the MDRAP?	6
20. How long will it take to process my application?	6

1. Who is eligible for MDRAP?

The MDRAP is open to doctors who are Australian citizens, Permanent Residents and Temporary Residents. Eligible applicants for the MDRAP fall into the following categories:

- Doctors with prior general practice experience
- Doctors without prior general practice experience
- Doctors providing locum services (some requirements will be based on prior general practice experience)
- Junior doctors gaining exposure to general practice. (PGY 3-4)

2. How do I apply?

New applicant and current members go to healthworkforce.com.au

Please note, applications must be complete with all relevant support documents uploaded/submitted to begin assessment.

3. How long is the program?

MDRAP placements is up to 2 years. Doctors can seek extensions for a further two years for extenuating circumstances only. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will require supporting evidence relevant to the circumstance.

4. What do I need to be eligible on MDRAP?

To be eligible for MDRAP doctors must:

- hold current registration with the Medical Board of Australia
- have an offer of employment and have the necessary skills and experience to perform the role
- provide evidence of appropriate support in place to meet supervision requirements if applicable
- take active steps to join a college pathway within the defined period and
- undertake general practice professional development activities.

A doctor's previous 3GA placement history will be considered when assessing MDRAP applications.

5. How long can I be on MDRAP?

An MDRAP placement is for two years. Doctors can seek extensions for a period up to four years total in extenuating circumstances, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. MDRAP Guidelines define the requirements for extenuating circumstances.

6. Where can I practice?

Eligible locations for an MDRAP placement are:

- in a [Distribution of Priority Areas](#) (DPA); and
- in an area classified as [Modified Monash Model](#) (MMM) 2–7 or

Doctors who work at a practice classified as an Aboriginal Medical Service or that hold an exemption under s19 (2) or s19 (5) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 are also eligible for a MDRAP placement.

7. What can I claim?

Doctors on the MDRAP will be able to access items from Group A7 of the Medicare Benefits Schedule. These items are set at 80% of the equivalent general practice items.

8. What will I have to do during my placement on the program?

The MDRAP supports doctors working towards joining a college Fellowship Program. Doctors participating in the MDRAP must make a minimum of one application to a Fellowship Program each year to remain on the program.

Doctors who participate in the MDRAP must complete foundation general practice training modules provided by either the [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#) or the [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#) within six months of commencing on the MDRAP.

Doctors who participate in the MDRAP for a year must ensure at least half of the annual professional development required by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is relevant to general practice. MDRAP Support Package may support funding towards this requirement.

For expanded requirements please see [MDRAP Guidelines](#).

9. Will I have to be supervised?

The MDRAP provides a supervision framework for doctors who have less than six months general practice experience. The supervision requirements vary depending on the category of the doctor. Information about supervision is available in the [MDRAP Applicant Guidelines](#). AHPRA supervision requirements linked to your registration are not replaced by the MDRAP supervision framework.

10. What can I claim on Medicare Benefits Schedule?

Doctors on MDRAP will be able to access non-VR rates on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). MDRAP approved doctors can utilise items numbers from Group A7 of the MBS.

11. I don't have an offer of employment; can Health Workforce Queensland help me with recruitment to an eligible practice location?

Health Workforce Queensland has a dedicated recruitment team that can help you find a placement that meets the eligibility criteria of MDRAP.

Contact hws@healthworkforce.com.au to find out more or search our vacancies listed at www.healthworkforce.com.au

12. How will the MDRAP affect my Other Medical Practitioner program (OMPs)

The OMPS programs were closed to new participants on the 31st of December 2018. Doctors participating in an Other Medical Practitioners (OMPS) program can continue to access OMPS at their existing locations

or apply for access at a MDRAP location (if eligible). OMPs grandfathering arrangements are in place for doctors who maintain their eligibility up to 30 June 2023.

13. How does MDRAP affect my existing 3GA placement?

There is no requirement for doctors on existing programs including the Rural Locum Relief Program (RLRP) to move to MDRAP and they may continue their respective programs until the end of placement.

14. What are the GP college Fellowship Programs?

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) offer two Fellowship Programs with multiple training streams:

1) RACGP Fellowship Program

- Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT)
- Remote Vocational Training Service (RVTS)
- Practice Experience Pathway (PEP)

2) ACRRM Fellowship Program

- Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT)
- Remote Vocational Training Service (RVTS)
- Independent Pathway (IP)

15. How do I apply for a location Interstate?

Please contact the Rural Workforce Agency in the state of the MDRAP practice location to apply.

- WA [Rural Health West](#)
- NSW [Rural Doctors Network](#)
- NT [Northern Territory PHN](#)
- SA [Rural Doctors Workforce Agency](#)
- TAS [HR+](#)
- VIC [Rural Workforce Agency Victoria](#)

16. Can I use a 19AB Replacement for an MDRAP Placement?

19AB replacements are not eligible for MDRAP practice locations. Practices must be a current DPA location to be eligible on the program.

17. Do I have to be an Australian Resident to apply for MDRAP?

Australian Citizens, Permanent Residents and Temporary Residents are all eligible to apply.

18. I do not have GP experience; can I apply for MDRAP?

Yes, you will need a supervisor in the practice to provide Level one supervision for one month and ongoing supervision for the remaining months depending on the MDRAP category approved. See MDRAP Guidelines for more information.

19. What kind of Support can I expect if I am approved on the MDRAP?

Access to a team of experts who specialise in Fellowship progression, Support with program compliance, Learning and Development, Allocated funding for both the doctor and practice to support implementation of the program, tailored Learning and Development or all doctors on the program.

20. How long will it take to process my application?

Assessment will commence when applications are deemed complete, and all supporting documents are submitted/uploaded. Health Workforce Queensland will notify applicants within 28 days of receiving a complete application.

Please note, applications are assessed in a queue system according to the date of completion. Additional time must be allowed for Medicare provider numbers to be processed by Services Australia.