



S·A·R·R·A·H
Services for Australian
Rural and Remote Allied Health

Roles and responsibilities associated with the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway strategy 2017-19

Purpose of this document

This document articulates the roles and responsibilities associated with Allied Health Rural Generalist Training Pathway strategy including the multi-jurisdictional trial of Allied Health Rural Generalist Training Positions (AHRG Training Position) and the allied health Rural Generalist Program being delivered by James Cook University, including:

- the employing organisation
- the AHRG Training Position incumbent
- the local supervisor and manager of the AHRG Training Position incumbent
- the commissioning agency (if relevant)
- Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health

Background

The AHRG Pathway strategy is a multi-jurisdictional partnership of health services collaborating on the development and trial of the rural generalist workforce and employment structures, education and training and service models. The strategy is not centrally funded and has limited coordination or reporting requirements for collaborators. Health services interested in collaborating in the development of the AHRG pathway will support the trial of the key components of the strategy, including:

1. Allied Health Rural Generalist Training Positions and
2. Rural Generalist Program

AHRG Training Positions will be developed and implemented using an organisation's own resources. The core structure and key features of the AHRG Training Positions are prescribed, but beyond that the organisation can tailor the position to their local requirements. All AHRG Training Positions will participate in the trial of the allied health Rural Generalist Program. This formal, two-stage education program is to be delivered by James Cook University in cooperation with QUT. Participants can complete Level 1 (graduate/early career module-based, work integrated program) or Level 2 (Graduate Diploma) or both. The evaluated trial of the Rural Generalist Program commences in May 2017 and concludes in December 2019.

Role of the employing organisation

The role of an employing organisation developing and managing an AHRG Training Position is to implement appropriate workforce and governance structures to support an AHRG Training Position incumbent to:

- complete the Rural Generalist Program, and

- contribute to generating sustainable change to the local service model that achieves benefits for the community.

A health service collaborating in the strategy:

- create one or more AHRG Training Positions that fulfil all the specified requirements of such a role ([refer to *Establishing Allied Health Rural Generalist Training Positions*](#)) in one or more of the following professions: medical imaging, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, and speech pathology. Positions may be created through new funding or the rural generalist training function may be designated for an existing role.
- Implement appropriate clinical and professional governance for the AHRG Training Position, including formal supervision by a co-located and/or highly accessible profession-specific supervisor.
- Support the scoping, development, implementation and evaluation of one or more rural generalist service development projects e.g. telehealth, delegation, extended scope including skills sharing, or new generalist services.
- Participate in the evaluated trial of the Rural Generalist Program in collaboration with health sector partners.

Role of the AHRG Training Position

The individual employed in the AHRG Training Position will undertake the Rural Generalist Program. The education program includes university-delivered and work-integrated learning as well as formal assessment processes.

In all other respects the services provided by an individual should be consistent with other positions of the same level / classification and function in the organisation.

Role of the local supervisor and manager of the AHRG Training Position

The local profession-specific supervisor and the position's operational manager will be responsible for supporting the incumbent of the AHRG Training Position to select and tailor their training to the local setting and service needs. They will also be responsible for supporting the AHRG Training Position incumbent to apply their learning from the Rural Generalist Program in practice in the local service.

The profession-specific supervisor will participate in formal supervision of the incumbent of the AHRG Training Position and contribute to clinical governance and support of the Rural Generalist Program at the local level.

The manager will be responsible for monitoring progress and facilitating supporting processes such as timely approval of development funding.

The local supervisor and manager will have a key role in selecting, supporting and progressing the rural generalist service development project that is a core component of the Rural Generalist Program. This includes local sponsorship and facilitation of the project.

Role of an agency commissioning or funding an AHRG Training Position

The role of a commissioning / funding agent will be to influence the readiness of the health system to accommodate the AHRG Training Position incumbents as well as those who complete the development pathway in future. By understanding the capacity of those completing the Rural Generalist Program and development pathway, commissioning agents can support workforce reform and drive service changes that respond to the needs of rural and remote communities.

Role of Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)

SARRAH will support collaboration, information sharing and advocacy for the AHRG Pathway strategy, including the AHRG Training Positions and Rural Generalist Program by:

- Coordinating engagement across the health sector and with relevant stakeholders, including commissioning agencies and health service providers, for the development of the education program.
- Providing information that allows healthcare providers to identify opportunities, and develop and implement AHRG Training Positions.
- Exploring funding models and opportunities to support the viability of the pathway, including the workforce and education components.
- Contributing to the formal evaluation of the AHRG Training Position and Rural Generalist Program outputs and outcomes.
- Contributing to the investigation of accreditation processes for the AHRG pathway in the post-trial phase.

For more information

Resources relevant to AHRG Training Positions and the Rural Generalist Program are available through SARRAH at www.sarrah.org.au

SARRAH can provide advice to healthcare providers, commissioning agencies and other stakeholders to support scoping, development and implementation of Allied Health Rural Generalist Training Positions.

E-mail: sarrah@sarrah.org.au

Phone: 02 6285 4960
1800 338 061

www: www.sarrah.org.au