

Victorian Rural Generalist Program
Rural Generalist Advanced Match
Match Rules 2026-2027

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria Inc. (PMCV) administers the Victorian Rural Generalist Program (VRGP) Rural Generalist Advanced Match (the Match) on behalf of the Victorian Department of Health (DH).

The VRGP, in conjunction with the VRGP Regional Networks, is responsible for the coordination, placement, prioritisation, and development of DH subsidised RGA posts across Victoria. This provides a formalised and equitable process for the distribution of RGA posts across Victorian Public Health Services with the aim of addressing community need for Rural Generalists (RGs).

The VRGP provides funding to support a defined pathway that trainees may commence during their Intern year (Rural Generalist Year 1 – RG1), RG2 or later for trainees joining via flexible entry. All RG pathways will include an Advanced Skill (Rural Generalist Advanced – RGA) training year. Existing VRGP trainees are eligible to apply for a VRGP-funded RGA position via a **pre-match** process. The pre-match process completes **prior** to the Match commencing.

Health Services can enter any accredited RGA position within the Match. VRGP funding will be provided for identified Priority Posts only where the successful candidate meets the VRGP funding eligibility criteria (subject to budget availability). Priority posts are selected by VRGP Regional Networks in line with the current and projected RG employment demands of the region. The VRGP Coordination Unit will advise health services of each candidate’s eligibility for funding prior to the ranking stage of the Match.

2 GLOSSARY

Defined VRGP Pathway	Candidate who entered program RG1 (internship) and/or flexible entry trainees in RG2 or later years. Pathway developed with VRGP or interstate providers.
Current Region	Trainee or Fellowed candidate currently working in the region that the position is in.
Priority Post	An accredited RGA position that has been determined by a VRGP Regional Network to align with current or projected RG employment demands. Priority Posts, if filled by an eligible candidate, will receive VRGP RGA position funding.
Rural Generalist Registrar	A registrar training towards a FACRRM and/or the FRACGP-RG (Rural Generalist).
Colleges	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)
FRACGP	Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
FACRRM	Fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

3 GENERAL RULES

1. The PMCV will administer the RGA Match in accordance with the published Code of Conduct on the PMCV’s Allocation & Placement Service website. This document forms part of the Code of Conduct.
2. PMCV and VRGP are responsible for developing the Match process.
3. Participating Health Services are responsible for their own selection processes and decisions.
4. Both candidates and Health Services rank their preferences in accordance with the Allocation & Placement Service process and the Code of Conduct.
5. Prior to the match, the VRGP Coordination Unit will advise Health Services on the posts which have been identified by the Regional Network as Priority Posts and will receive funding if filled by an eligible

candidate. Health Services are responsible for the final decision on which positions that they enter into the RGA Match.

6. Prior to the match, the VRGP Coordination Unit will advise whether the PMCV match will go ahead. The match will not go ahead if all or nearly all of the RGA positions have been filled through pre-matching.
7. Candidates assessed as ineligible for funding will be removed from the match, this includes candidates who do not meet the pre-requisite clinical experience to undertake an RGA position (refer to VRGP Rural Generalist Advanced Guidelines 2026 for pre-requisites per discipline).
8. Health Services determining the ranking order of candidates should factor in the assessment recommendations of the VRGP Coordination Unit following their assessment of candidate's recorded video interviews. This assessment will state the candidate's eligibility for VRGP funding.

4 FUNDING OF VRGP POSITIONS

The Victorian Department of Health (DH) funds Health Services for RGA posts through the VRGP. Funding is provided only to eligible candidates in priority posts.

Candidates who are ineligible for VRGP funding (see 7.7 VRGP Coordination Unit Assessment) may not participate in the RGA Match.

Detailed information on candidate eligibility criteria, including in relation to accessing funding to undertake a second RGA post, is provided in the Rural Generalist Advanced Guidelines 2026.

5 VRGP MATCH STAGES

The process of matching RG trainees to VRGP RGA positions is undertaken jointly by VRGP and the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV).

The RGA matching process is undertaken in three phases to ensure RGA training positions are allocated fairly and in accordance with Department and VRGP funding objectives.

Pre-match	Match	Case Management
Nov 2025 – May 2026	Jun 2026 – Aug 2026	Sep 2026 – Jan 2027

6 PRE-MATCH

Pre-matches are available to candidates registered and on a defined VRGP pathway within their region. Further information is available on pre-matching in the VRGP RGA Guidelines 2026.

The pre-match process sits outside the PMCV Match and is administered by the VRGP across two stages: regional pre-match and statewide pre-match. Any questions relating to pre-matches should be directed to the VRGP Coordination Unit.

Candidates who accept a pre-matched position are not eligible to apply to the RGA Match for any other positions. Pre-matched candidates will be removed from the Match and notified by the PMCV.

Formal recognition of RGA pre-match positions and candidates will be endorsed by each Regional Network, collated by Regional Coordinators and provided to the VRGP Statewide team for submission to the PMCV Match by **30 May 2026**.

7 PMCV – RURAL GENERALIST ADVANCED (RGA) MATCH

7.1 PMCV MATCH ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria are as published in the VRGP RGA Guidelines 2026.

Only candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria will be included in the match. VRGP will conduct an assessment, and those who do not meet the criteria will be removed and notified by PMCV.

Training Colleges will confirm a candidate's eligibility to undertake RGA Training. Funded RGA training positions are open to applications from candidates who meet the following criteria:

1. Recognised training pathway
 - a. Rural Generalist registrars on, or awaiting acceptance on to, a recognised training pathway such as the:
 - i. Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT)
 - ii. Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS)
 - iii. Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Independent Pathway (IP) (NOTE: A Rural Generalist registrar is considered a registrar training towards a FACRRM and/or the FRACGP-RG (not FRACGP in isolation); RACGP Fellowship Support Program (FSP) Program trainees are not eligible as they are unable to enrol in the FRACGP-RG.)
 - b. Felloved General Practitioners (FRACGP) obtaining advanced skills to become a Rural Generalist. FRACGP candidates who enrol in the Rural Generalist program (FRACGP-RG) prior to commencement in the RGA position and committed to completing all requirements of the RG program.
 - c. Existing Rural Generalists (FACRRM, or FRACGP with either FARGP or FRACGP-RG) seeking to undertake a second advanced skill to meet an identified community need.
2. Registration with the VRGP - All candidates must register with the VRGP. VRGP Registration must be completed prior to the commencement of the recruitment process (i.e. pre-match or match).
3. General Medical Registration - All candidates must have full General medical registration in Australia at the time of application.
4. Hospital Experience and other College pre-requisites – Candidates must demonstrate they have / will have completed college experience required pre-requisite to commencing their advanced training year. Pre-requisites per discipline are provided in Appendix A of the VRGP RGA Guidelines 2026
5. Grants and funding - All candidates must declare if they are in receipt of other training or research grants which they may be simultaneously receiving during the RGA training period. This grant or funding will be reviewed under the Department's funding conflict of interest terms to identify if the RGA training funding should be reduced in relation to other grants.
6. Additional criteria - Candidates may be required to confirm with PMCV via the registration process, and later by providing to Health Services, evidence of mandatory workforce details such as their MBBS or equivalent qualification, current and satisfactory Working with Children and National Police Check, evidence of an active Medicare provider and prescriber number.

Eligible trainees who have accepted a VRGP-funded RGA Position in pre-match are not eligible to participate in the Match.

Positions that have been pre-matched to eligible trainees cannot be included in the RGA Match.

7.2 INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

International Medical Graduates are eligible providing they meet the criteria listed in both the eligibility section (including General registration and acceptance onto an RG training program with ACRRM or RACGP)

7.3 PRE-REQUISITIES

Candidates must confirm that they meet the relevant college pre-requisites for any discipline they intend to preference.

Candidates attest through the application process that they do meet the pre-requisites for each discipline they preference. Should a candidate be matched, and it is later determined that the pre-requisite requirement hasn't been fulfilled, VRGP funding for the position will be rescinded and the health service may withdraw their position offer.

Guidance on pre-requisites per discipline is provided in Appendix A of the VRGP RGA Guidelines 2026.

7.4 PRIORITY GROUPS

The 2026 PMCV RGA Match will **not** include priority groups for candidates eligible for VRGP funded positions. The Match is completed in one round with the algorithm running once to allocate positions to candidates.

Candidates deemed ineligible for VRGP funded positions will be removed from the Match.

7.5 REFEREE REPORTS

The PMCV has a centralised referee collection and distribution process within the Allocations & Placement Service website. All hospitals and health services participating in the Advanced Skills Matching Service have agreed to use a standardised Referee Assessment Form.

All candidates participating in the RGA Match must ensure that **two (2)** of the Referee Assessment Forms are submitted via the APS.

Process Overview

- Candidates nominate referees via their account on the matching website (Nominate Referees area).
- The nominated referee automatically receives an email with a link to a unique URL.
- The nominated referee completes the form, and it is saved on the APS Website.
- Health Services candidates nominated a preference, have access to completed referee reports.

Candidates can only nominate two (2) referees so please consider the choice of referees.

PMCV **do not** follow up with referees to complete the Referee Assessment Form. **It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure their nominated referees complete the form on time.** Some emails can be lost to spam filters etc. Once candidates have nominated a referee online, they should check with them directly to ensure they have received the email. Referee reports must be completed by **Monday 29 June 2026 at 5pm.**

Should a candidate not have references from two nominated referees, this will limit a Health Service's ability to assess the candidate for shortlisting, interview and ranking.

7.7 VRGP ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

The VRGP Coordination Unit will advise Health Services on which positions and candidates are eligible / ineligible for funding prior to the health service ranking candidates.

Funding eligibility criteria for RGA positions included in the Match

The VRGP Regional Networks will endorse which Priority Posts will receive VRGP funding if filled by an eligible candidate. The VRGP Coordination Unit will advise health services on which posts will be eligible for funding prior to the commencement of the Match based on the following criteria:

- Will have accreditation from the relevant College by February 2027
- Endorsed by the VRGP Regional Network as a Priority Post.

Funding eligibility criteria for candidates

The VRGP Coordination Unit has sole discretion in determining candidate eligibility for funding. The VRGP Coordination Unit will assess candidate applications to determine if the candidate is eligible for a VRGP funded position.

As per Appendix A of the VRGP RGA Guidelines 2026, and in line with the relevant college, all candidates will be assessed on eligibility based on the discipline specific pre-requisites.

7.8 LIVE OR ONLINE INTERVIEWS

All candidates are required to submit video interviews.

It is up to each Health Service to determine if it wishes to conduct a live or online interview, after the video interview. Health Services may determine that the video interview has provided them with sufficient information or use the video interview as a tool to determine the shortlist for interview.

Additional live / online interviews are to be coordinated by the Health Service, which will decide on the interview panel.

7.9 MATCHING PROCESS – AN OVERVIEW

PMCV will administer the VRGP RGA Match on behalf of the Victorian Department of Health. The Schedule of Dates for the Match can be found on the PMCV website and via the Allocation & Placement Service website.

Both candidates and Health Services rank their preferences prior to the matching process.

Candidates can rank up to 5 positions and should only rank positions that they are willing to accept if matched to. Noting that this may require them to relocate.

Health services can rank any number of applicants (or none) and are advised to only rank candidates that they are willing to employ if matched to.

In accordance with the Allocation & Placement Service process, the preferences of candidates will be considered with reference to where an applicant is ranked by a Health Service.

All Health Services have agreed to participate in the Victorian RGA Match, with no Health Services permitted to recruit outside the Match for VRGP-funded positions.

Candidates may apply to Health Services where they are interested in working (up to a maximum of 5 Health Service preferences). Health Services will have access to information only from candidates that preference them.

Note: Under no circumstances can a Health Service make an offer to an applicant matched to another Health Service. It is recommended that Health Services liaise directly with PMCV if they have any concerns regarding making an offer in relation to the match.

7.10 MATCH RESULTS

The VRGP Coordination Unit, approved candidates and PMCV registered hospital administration users will be emailed the Match results and be able to access them by logging in to the Allocation & Placement Service system.

A maximum of one offer will be made to each applicant.

Once an applicant has accepted an offer via the APS, they will not receive any further offers of RGA positions in Victoria. If a candidate declines an offer, they will **not** receive any further offers of RGA positions in Victoria. Exceptions may be considered if there are unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, to be approved by VRGP Statewide Team.

Health Services will not make direct offers, as all allocations go through the PMCV matching process.

Health Services must advise the VRGP Coordination Unit and the PMCV of applicant acceptance or decline of a match offer. If an offer is declined, the PMCV will provide the Health Service with the next matched applicant. This process continues until the position is accepted or there are no remaining applicants.

A position that is not filled via the PMCV Match is able to be included in Phase 4 – Case Management recruitment processes.

7.11 CANDIDATE DECLINE/WITHDRAW FOLLOWING OFFER

Candidates who decline an offer or have accepted a position at any stage, then later withdraw from that position, will in most cases **be ineligible to be matched to another funded VRGP RGA Position for the same year.**

Exceptions may be considered if there are unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, to be approved by VRGP Statewide Team.

7.12 CANDIDATE WITHDRAWAL FROM MATCH

Any applicant that does not intend to accept, or who will be unable to accept a VRGP RGA position to commence in 2027, must withdraw from the Allocation & Placement Service process by the **Match Close date for candidates on the 24 June 2026.**

Any AGPT applicants who do not receive an Offer of Training, must notify PMCV immediately and rescind their provisional placement. Please refer to section 7.13 – Provisional Matches.

7.13 PROVISIONAL MATCHES AWAITING TRAINING PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Candidates must be enrolled, or accepted, in an accredited Rural Generalist training program by the time that they commence the RGA position.

For candidates in the application phase with Australian General Practice Training, ACRRM Independent Pathway or Rural Generalist Training Scheme, PMCV will conduct a preliminary eligibility confirmation so that candidates can register for the Match, complete all the necessary forms, and submit preferences.

If the Training Program results are not available until after the Match is run, any Match offer will have a “provisional” status until the candidate receives confirmed of a Training Offer from the Training Provider (e.g. RACGP or ACRRM) with proof provided by the candidate to the PMCV.

If the candidate is successful in receiving an Offer of Training, then the “provisional” status will be removed automatically to become a **binding Match**.

If a candidate is not successful with their application to the Program they applied to, then the provisional Advanced Skill position will be re-advertised and reallocated to another candidate.

7.14 CANDIDATE DEFERRAL OF ALLOCATED POSITION

Deferral of placement is not available for the RGA positions. The expectation is that the successful candidate will commence their post in 2027.

8 CASE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

8.1 UNMATCHED CANDIDATES

There may be candidates and RGA positions that remain unfilled following the Match process.

All unfilled positions and unmatched RGA candidates will be managed through a case management process.

If there are still unfilled VRGP- funded RGA posts after a thorough case management process has been undertaken, a reallocation of Priority Posts may occur where endorsed by the VRGP Regional Network.

8.2 UNMATCHED POSITIONS

Health Services will have the opportunity to withdraw any unmatched RGA positions **following** the RGA Match.

These vacant positions can be withdrawn and be utilised as workforce positions at the Health Service. Withdrawn positions will **not** receive VRGP RGA funding.

The VRGP Regional Coordinators will liaise with the Health Services regularly throughout the case-management phase to endeavour to fill or attribute funding where community need exists.

9 APPLICATION OF MATCH RULES

These Match rules apply to the 2026-2027 Victorian RGA Match and will be reviewed annually.