



**PGY3+ FUNLHN Whyalla
Rural Generalist
Anaesthetics (ACRGA)**

Information Pack 2025 Clinical Year



as of 12 June 2024

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About Rural Generalist Anaesthetics (ACRGA) Advanced Skills

Introduction

We invite you to become part of a collegiate, committed, multidiscipline Anaesthetics team consisting of Anaesthetists and Rural Generalist Anaesthetists (RGAs) and a number of junior doctors, and a wonderful group of experienced and qualified nurses.

This full year role enables the requisite exposure to rural anaesthetics cases to meet the requirement of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Advanced Specialist Training in Anaesthetics (ACRRM AST Anaesthetics) and FRACGP-RG ARST requirements in rural GP Anaesthetics via the Advanced Certificate of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (ACRGA).

This position is available to Postgraduate Year 3 and above (PGY3+) who are either enrolled in RG fellowship training or to those people that hold an RG fellowship.

The Trainee will gain experience in Rural Generalist Anaesthetics with particular focus on patients living in Whyalla and the Northern and Eyre regions of rural South Australia. The program offers generous opportunities to learn a wide range of practical skills in a rural setting.

It is mandatory for the successful candidate to enrol in and complete the Advanced Certificate of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia qualification over the 12 months. This post is designed to be undertaken as part of rural generalist training through either GP College, with a view to practicing as a Rural Generalist Anaesthetist. Preference is given to applicants committed to a career in rural practice within South Australia.

Key Dates

Expressions of Interest open:	Wednesday 12 June 2024 (09:00 am ACST)
Expressions of Interest close:	Wednesday 3 July 2024 (11:55 pm ACST)
Referee reports close:	Wednesday 10 July 2024
Shortlisting commences:	Wednesday 31 July 2024
Interviews:	Friday 9 August 2024
Round 1 results available to applicants:	Thursday 19 September 2024 (1 st preference matches only)
Round 2 results available to applicants (excluding general training):	Thursday 26 September 2024 (2 nd or higher preference matches)
Round 3 results available to applicants (excluding general training):	Thursday 3 October 2024 (3 rd or higher preference matches)
Round 4 onwards (including general training):	Thursday 10 October 2024 (4 th or higher preference matches)
Start date of Term 1 Clinical Year:	Monday 3 February 2025

Number of positions in 2024 clinical year



Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network (FUNLHN)

About FUNLHN

The Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network provides care for around 45,000 people living north from the Spencer Gulf to the Northern Territory, including the communities of Hawker, Leigh Creek, Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Quorn and Whyalla. The Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network is one of ten Local Health Networks including six across country South Australia. The LHN covers an area of 540,190 square kilometres. The Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network is incorporated under the South Australian Health Care Act 2008 and has a Governing Board which reports to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. The Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network provides a range of public acute, sub-acute, residential aged care, multi-purpose health services, community, and mental health services throughout the region.

The Health Network includes:

- > Hawker Memorial Hospital
- > Leigh Creek Health Service
- > Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Service
- > Quorn Health Service
- > Roxby Downs Hospital
- > Whyalla Hospital and Health Service

Whyalla Hospital and Health Service

Flinders and Upper North residents have access to a wide range of health care services in a number of locations throughout the region. Port Augusta Hospital and Health Service is part of the Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network.

Whyalla Hospital provides 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) accident and emergency services, acute inpatient care, maternal and neonatal services, elective surgery, renal dialysis, acute stroke, palliative, rehabilitation and orthotics/prosthetics service. There is a Regional Cancer Centre providing chemotherapy with an on-site specialist oncologist and an Integrated Mental Health Inpatient Unit with a resident psychiatrist. Additional services located onsite are radiology (including MRI), SA Pathology, clinical pharmacy and Allied Health Services. Hospital services are co-located with community health services.

Whyalla Hospital and Health Services is a teaching hospital with Junior Medical Officers (Interns and RMOs) and Adelaide University Rural medical students spending their full fifth year in Whyalla. JMOs and medical students are integrated into the adult internal medicine, emergency medicine, O&G and surgical teams.

What you can expect from FUNLHN

What should employees expect from the role?

In the Whyalla Hospital Anaesthetic Department, you will work with supervising Anaesthetists, Rural Generalist Anaesthetists and occasionally Junior Medical Officers in providing peri-operative anaesthetic care of surgical and obstetric patients. You will also have experience in providing a pain service to hospital inpatients as well as work with more senior members of the team managing patients in the High Dependency Unit, the Emergency Department and across all hospital areas. You will participate in pre-anaesthetic checks within the outpatients Department.

Will I be based at Whyalla all year? Will I be expected to travel to other country locations?

The trainee is primarily based in the Whyalla Hospital. Travel to other country locations is not expected but maybe required, by negotiation, to gain access to requisite clinical cases e.g., paediatric and obstetric patients.

What are the key outcomes of the program?

The aim of this program is to provide trainees with sufficient clinical experience and supervision support to complete the requirements of the Advanced Certificate of Rural Generalist Anaesthesia (ACRGA). Candidates will also be supported to meet the external course requirements and assessments to achieve their AST/ARST and set them up to be confident working at the level of a Rural Generalist Anaesthetists provider.

If I want to stay on for an extra year, do I have to apply again?

This program involves a 12-month commitment and Expressions of Interest to the program are required for the following year.

We encourage trainees to join a Rural Generalist Anaesthetists roster in rural South Australia on completion of the year. We encourage a transition process where early career GP anaesthetists can receive backup from an experienced Rural Generalist Anaesthetists in the 6-12 months after completion of this post until they are confident to take on a fully independent role.

What are the hours of work and overtime?

This post requires a commitment of 76 hours per fortnight. Participation in the out of hours general anaesthesia on-call rostering is required. Some out-of- hours work is required within the roster in order to provide continuity of care and meet logbook requirements.

What education is provided?

The unit has a strong learning focus with weekly small group learning tutorials as well as more formal training.

How will supervision be provided? will this vary from rotation to rotation?

Each day the trainee will work with a named supervisor in theatre who will provide direct clinical supervision.

What other support is provided?

The Medical Education Unit have an open-door policy where trainees are welcomed to discuss any issues or concerns. The DCT and MEO also arrange confidential beginning and end of year appraisals as a formal time for trainees to ask for advice/support, highlight any concerns, discuss career pathways, and provide feedback about the training program.

Will the TMO supervise interns/others in their role?

Supervision is not a requirement of this position. This position works directly with the Rural Generalist Anaesthetists and Nursing staff.

What pathways are there after the year is completed?

Trainees are encouraged to see this post as a step in their pathway to providing Rural Generalist Anaesthetists services to a community in rural South Australia. This position can articulate with:

- > ACRRM and RACGP General Practice training
- > Other local training positions including AST/ARST in Emergency Medicine.

Rotations at FUNLHN

This post is based in the Anaesthetics Department within the Whyalla Hospital and Health Service for the full hospital employment year (i.e. February 2025 to February 2026). It is not expected that other rotations will be allocated during this period.

Selection into FUNLHN Whyalla Rural Generalist Anaesthetics (ACRGA) AST

About the selection panel

Selection for the six South Australian ACRGA positions is via a centralised process. The selection panel for this post usually includes: the Heads of Unit for the Anaesthetics Departments (or their delegate) that train RGAs.

Eligibility

Candidates must either be a fellowed Rural GP who intends to upskill to provide anaesthetic services or a Rural GP registrar with either ACRRM or the RACGP intending to complete ACRGA training as part of their advanced skills training (AST/ARST).

Both Australian trained candidates currently in PGY3+ and international medical graduates who have general registration and who will have at least 3 years clinical experience on commencement are eligible to apply for this role. Candidates must have Australian Working Rights to be eligible to apply. Candidates must be either a rural generalist fellowship trainee or a fellowed rural generalist.

Candidates must be available to work for a 12-month commitment commencing on 3 February 2025.

Skills and knowledge required for the role

Prerequisite Anaesthetic knowledge at PGY3+ level is assumed (see Australian Junior Doctor Curriculum Framework).

Other attributes required for this role include:

- > Interest in experiencing rural learning environment.
- > Demonstrated high level communication skills both verbally and in writing.
- > Professional integrity and ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team environment.
- > Ability to be adaptable to change.
- > Successfully completed at least one of EMST/ATLS, Emergency Management of Anaesthetic Crises (EMAC), Emergency Life Support (ELS), or have a secure position on an upcoming course for any of the above.
- > Good theoretical knowledge.
- > Knowledge and awareness of quality improvement activities and clinical risk reduction and patient safety techniques.
- > Must have completed ALS2 and APLS in the preceding 52 weeks or plan to complete both of these courses during the ACRGA training year.

Selection Process

Our approach to selection

At a minimum the selection process will involve assessing your:

- > Curriculum Vitae

- > Answers to Expression of Interest short answer questions
- > Referee reports
- > Appropriate completion and submission of required documentation
- > An interview.

All Expressions of Interest will be scored/ranked for shortlisting. Up to eight people will be shortlisted for interview. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a face-to-face or video conference interview. Candidates can put in preferences for training locations prior to interview.

The selection panel will rank each candidate. The highest ranked candidate will be offered their first preference training location. Lower ranked candidates will progressively offered the remaining positions.

Your Expression of Interest

Your Expression of Interest must include:

- > An Expression of Interest addressing the selection criteria (see below).
- > A Curriculum Vitae.
- > Contact details from two referees in Australia who have worked with you in a clinical setting.

Curriculum Vitae

Curriculum Vitae should include:

- > Contact details including email and mobile phone number.
- > Qualifications and academic achievements.
- > Evidence of being enrolled in ACRRM or RACGP training program (if appropriate).
- > Clinical achievements:
 - All jobs / clinical placements since completing medical school.
 - Any rural clinical experiences since commencing medical school.
- > Personal Development.
- > Successfully completed at least one EMST/ATLS, Emergency Management of Anaesthetic Crises (EMAC), Emergency Life Support (ELS), or have a secure position on an upcoming course for any of the above.
- > Activities which demonstrate your interest in and commitment to Rural Generalist Anaesthetic practice.

Cover letter

Not required.

Other Expression of Interest questions

- > *In no more than 300 words describe why rural general training and/or Anaesthetics interests you?*

- > *What experience have you had of either living and/or working in a rural area or what personal strengths do you have which will assist you to live and work within a rural community?*
- > *In no more than 500 words, describe your experience relevant to and interest in Anaesthetics and rural generalist practice.*

Interview

Applicants who are shortlisted for an interview will be notified by mobile phone and/or email.

The intention of the interview is to ensure that they are the best fit for the role. Interview is likely to include invitation to describe previous experiences and some scenario-based questions with the aim to evaluate candidates against selection criteria which include:

- > *Demonstrated ability to thrive in the rural context.*
- > *Highly effective communication and collaboration skills in the clinical setting.*
- > *Ability to succeed in attaining Rural Generalist Anaesthetics requirements while in this post.*

Frequently Asked Questions

I am unsure about moving to the country. Can I visit to look at the facilities prior to finalising my preferences?

We would encourage you to visit our beautiful city and enjoy the rural hospitality. Please let us know if you are planning a visit so that we can facilitate this, for example, with a tour of the hospital, and point you in the direction of touring and entertainment. Whyalla is located on the Eyre Peninsula's Spencer Gulf and is the largest city for retail shopping within the region. Whyalla boasts a warm climate, accessible ocean shores and saltwater fishing. Whyalla represents South Australia's foremost combination of industrial and nature-based experiences. With vivid scenery, small city charm, distinctive mystic outback landscapes and year-round things to do.

Will accommodation be provided?

Accommodation is provided to ACRGA trainees free of charge whilst on rotation between Port Augusta and Whyalla for the year or you can arrange your own accommodation.

Will I be supported with relocation expenses?

We appreciate that moving house can put a strain on your finances, particularly prior to starting your new job. Please contact us to discuss what relocation support may be available and what documentation you will need to supply.

Will I need my own transport?

Whyalla is a rural city of over 21,000 people. Some sort of private transport is highly recommended as the city is spread over quite a large area. Most locations are only 3-8 minutes away by car, 10-15 by bicycle. There is a limited public transport system (bus) which runs primarily between 9am and 5pm.

Do I need to arrange for a carpark?

The good news is that parking in all of Whyalla is currently free of charge. Some areas require permits and time limits, but generally it is easy to park in or around the Hospital and University precinct. There is a secure staff car park on the Hospital site.

Can I get decent coffee and food in Whyalla?

Yes, and yes. Whyalla offers a range of dining options featuring regional produce inspired by freshness and seasonality. Restaurants, Cafes' and hotels provide something for everyone. There is a wide range of cuisines on offer and real baristas.

What is there to do in Whyalla?

The benefits of being on the Eyre Peninsula discovering rich Indigenous heritage. Whyalla is a city with a diverse culture. Whyalla is recognised as a regional hub for creative expression with performances, shows, events and exhibitions showcase a vibrant city reflected in the arts.

You can walk along sandy beaches or in leafy gardens, watch a show or movie, relax in a spa or swim, shop or socialise in a café or bar. With over 300 days of sunshine a year gives local residents an enviable lifestyle with natural wonders, spectacular vista, and beaches, unique one-of-a-kind experiences, and great services.

With open spaces, wind and ocean make for many sports and activities. Whyalla has over 100 sports codes from motor sports, golf to the traditional sports.

Unearth white sands, heritage listed pebble dunes and blue waters of every hue alongside coastal walks and tracks with stunning vistas across the Spencer Gulf. Whyalla has a lot to love.

Contacts

FUNLHN

Head of Unit, Whyalla Anaesthetics	Name: Dr Pete Gilchrist Email: peter.gilchrist@flinders.edu.au
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Role Description

View Role Description [here](#)

Any further questions?

SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2022 [here](#)

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) registration standards [here](#)

For more information

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons