**Title**

Where do AGPT graduates practice after training? Analysis from four regional training organisations

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**Background**

A persistent challenge in Australia has been shortages of GPs in rural areas. One of the key aims of regionalised GP training in Australia was to train registrars within a region, with the aim of them remaining in that region post-graduation. There is limited evidence showing the extent to which this strategy has addressed the challenge.

**Aims**

To determine the current practice location of AGPT graduates and factors associated with practice location.

**Method**

Characteristics and training information was obtained from four regional training providers (GPEx, WAGPET, GPTT, MCCC) for their graduates who had completed training between 2010-2016. Current practice location was sourced through APHRA. Univariate and multivariate analysis identified factors which impacted on current work location.

**Results**

1180 graduates were included in the analysis. Of these, 438 (36%) were general pathway trained and 771 (64%) were rural pathway trained. In terms of current practice location, 745 (63%) were working in an urban location (RA1) and 435 (37%) in a rural location (RA2-5). Of those graduates who undertook the general pathway, 89% are currently working in an urban location while 52% of rural pathway trained graduates are currently working in a rural location. Across RTOs results indicate that 83% of graduates choose to continue practising in the state in which they were trained. Ordinal logistic regression showed that rural pathway graduates were significantly more likely to be working in a rural location than general pathway graduates and some training and demographic characteristics were predictors of rural practice location.

**Conclusion**

Results indicate that the AGPT training experience, delivered through RTOs, is associated with GP-graduate retention within their training region, and GP-graduate retention within rural General Practice. This contributes to addressing the problem of geographical maldistribution of the medical workforce, positively influencing the “future of General Practice”.