



PGY3+ RMCLHN
Rural Generalist Palliative Care Program
Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence

Information Pack 2026 Clinical Year



as of April 2025

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About Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence Rural Generalist Palliative Care Pathway

Introduction

The Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence (RACE) articulates the ambition of the Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN to be a centre of excellence in rural health – teaching, research, and innovative clinical care. It is the next exciting step in a long-term commitment to medical education in our region.

Based on a holistic understanding of health and integrating hospital and general practice training at all levels with a broad range of contemporary training in advanced skills, it is a one-stop-shop for career advancement in general practice and rural generalism. The Academy Trainee Medical Officer (TMO) program is also excellent preparation for other specialty training programs and includes opportunities to advance your career through becoming part of local and international research and education networks.

We have listened to Trainee Medical Officers around the country who want a secure single-employer contract for the duration of their training, who want to be able to choose to live in one place if they wish, and who want flexibility for part-time employment. All of this in supportive communities where you have meaningful work while you learn.

Our Academy Pathway is based in the small towns that have been the home of the Parallel Rural Community Curriculum for 25 years. New GPs and other specialists have brought an exciting culture of ‘can do together’ to the region.

Our PGY3+ palliative care program is designed to promote a broad range of experiences in both rural and metropolitan settings. There will be 6 months in the Riverland region and 6 months in Flinders Medical Centre, in alternating 2 month blocks. The year will be under the supervision of palliative care physicians Dr Tim To and Dr Susan Haynes, Rural Generalists with advanced skills in palliative care Dr Hamish Eske and Dr James Mcleod, palliative care nurse practitioner Wendy Jansen, and the experienced nurses in our community palliative care team. There will be a broad range of experiences across community palliative care, hospice and consult liaison services. You will be making a significant contribution to the Riverland community by increasing access to community palliative care services, reducing appointment wait times and increasing frequency of home visits, as well as streamlining the patient journey by reducing unnecessary emergency department visits.

You will have opportunities to work with experienced healthcare teams, under personalised supervision of experienced rural clinicians, challenge yourself and gain valuable experience with hands-on procedural skills. You will work in a network of hospitals, general practices, aboriginal health services, community, mental health, and aged care services in our region that provide high quality care close to home for our 70,000 residents.

Being a member of a smaller cohort of trainees, you will have access to significant individual support from the RACE Medical Education Unit and you will also develop close working relationships with your junior and senior medical colleagues. The working culture at our hospitals and general practices embraces teamwork and recognises that all team members, including you as a Trainee Medical Officer, are highly valued for the skills and knowledge they are able to contribute to patient care.

Key Dates

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| Expressions of Interest open: | Wednesday 11 June 2025 (09:00 am ACST) |
| Expressions of Interest close: | Wednesday 2 July 2025 (11:55 pm ACST) |
| Referee reports close: | Wednesday 9 July 2025 (05:00 pm ACST) |
| Shortlisting commences: | Wednesday 23 July 2025 |
| Interviews: | August 2025 |
| Round 1 results available to applicants: | Thursday 18 September 2025 (1 st preference matches only) |
| Round 2 results available to applicants (excluding Palliative Care): | Thursday 25 September 2025 (2 nd or higher preference matches) |
| Round 3 results available to applicants (excluding general training): | Thursday 2 October 2025 (3 rd or higher preference matches) |
| Round 4 onwards (including Palliative Care): | Thursday 9 October 2025 (4 th or higher preference matches) |
| Start date of Term 1 Clinical Year: | Monday 2 February 2026 |

Number of positions in 2025 clinical year



Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network (RMCLHN)

What can you expect from the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence training program

Does this program meet RACGP and ACRRM Training Requirements?

Yes. RACGP and ACRRM have accredited the advanced skills position, and between The Riverland and Flinders Medical Centre there will be a full coverage of the training requirements.

Where will I be based? Will I be expected to travel to other country locations?

Your primary sites for the advanced skills year will be in the Riverland region with the community team, and Flinders Medical Centre in various parts of the department.

Are contracts renewed every 12 months? If I want to stay on for an extra year, do I have to apply again?

RACE PGY2+ contracts are for 5 years subject to entry being gained into either the RACGP or ACRRM Fellowship training programs before the end of your first PGY3+ year with us.

What are the hours of work and overtime?

Trainees are rostered to work 76 hours per fortnight and expected to participate in the general on-call roster during the week. Actual hours of duty will be flexible as determined by the Health Service in order to accommodate the needs of the patient/ service provision.

What education is provided?

Generous education opportunities are available from the Medical Training Unit including tutorials, video-conference education sessions and journal clubs. There will be weekly teaching and case discussions with the Riverland Rural Generalist supervisors, online teaching via the ECHO program, and regular Flinders Medical Centre based teaching sessions.

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

Trainees will work under close supervision and support of General Practitioner's with advanced skills in palliative care, palliative care nurses and a nurse practitioner, and Specialist Palliative care consultants.

What other support is provided?

The Executive Director of Medical Services, Director of Clinical Training and Medical Education Officers are available for professional, administrative and welfare support. RACE will also provide access to a Learning Coach for each trainee.

The Medical Education staff has an open-door policy where Trainees are encouraged to discuss any issues or concerns.

How is the role defined?

- > General practice-based provision of medical care to Aged care residents and community-based patients who are approaching end of life.
- > Provision of medical support to the local specialist palliative care nursing teams (with supervision by senior GP/Palliative Medicine specialist as needed)
- > Attendance at palliative care needs rounds for Riverland RACFs engaged in Regional LHN Hospice in the RACF project.
- > Shadowing palliative medicine consultant on Riverland visits quarterly
- > Work in Flinders Medical Centre Hospice and Consult Liaison services, alongside their dedicated Palliative Care Consultants and teams.

Will the TMO supervise interns/others in their role?

TMOs may be required to assist in the learning experience of medical students, interns and RMO's.

Selection

About the selection panel

The selection panel for this program will include, but not limited to, a combination of the following:

- > Executive Director of Medical Services.
- > Director of Clinical Training.
- > Relevant General Practitioner.
- > Medical Workforce Coordinator
- > Medical Education Officer
- > Aboriginal Health Representative

Eligibility

To apply for an advanced palliative care training position in South Australia you must comply with the following criteria:

- > Must be eligible for general registration as a medical practitioner in Australia issued by the Medical Board of Australia on or before the February start date.
- > Must meet AHPRA and SA Health's recency of practice requirements. SA Health requires applicants to have practiced as a medical officer with paid employment (not an observer) within two years at the time of submitting the Expression of Interest.
- > Can demonstrate that you meet the English Language Skills Registration standard.
- > Be able to begin working on the 2 February 2026 start date, which includes compulsory orientation, and fulfil a minimum 12-month commitment.
- > Be in a training program with either RACGP or ACRRM and be PGY3+
- > Be an Australian Citizen, Australian Permanent Resident, Australian Temporary Resident, New Zealand Citizen, New Zealand Permanent Resident.

- > Have a residency status or visa that allows you to work unrestricted in Australia for the duration of your pre-vocational training.
- > Have completed and submitted an online Expression of Interest, including the provision of valid supporting documentation, by the Expression of Interest closing date.

Late Expressions of Interest will not be accepted

Pre-employment requirements

All appointments are subject to:

- > Verification of registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- > Working with Children check (WWCC) and National Police Certificate (NPC) General Employment Probity Check.
- > Pre-employment Immunisation Screening.
- > Credentialling.

You will not be able to commence your PGY3+ if these requirements are not satisfied.

Skills and knowledge required for the role

Educational /Vocational Qualifications

- > Medical Qualification registerable with the Medical Board of Australia.
- > Minimum of 1-year postgraduate training.
- > Working rights and appropriate visa in Australia.

Personal Abilities / Aptitudes / Skills

- > Interest in experiencing rural learning environment.
- > Professional integrity.
- > Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team environment.
- > Commitment to quality improvement.
- > Ability to be adaptable to change.
- > Good Communication skills both verbally and in writing.
- > Proficient in using computers in various settings.
- > Commitment to teaching medical students.

Experience

- > Successful completion of intern or intern equivalent program.
- > Sound experience in procedural skills.
- > Sound examination and diagnostic skills in adult and paediatric medicine.
- > Experience in a rural health setting.

Knowledge

- > Demonstrated understanding of the rights and responsibilities of patients and their families.
- > Demonstrated understanding of Cultural Safety and Occupational Health Safety & Welfare practices and principles.
- > Good theoretical knowledge of medical practice.
- > Knowledge and awareness of quality improvement activities and clinical risk reduction and patient safety techniques.
- > Demonstrated understanding of the practices and principles of Equal Opportunity.
- > Knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, industrial agreements, standards, codes, ethics, and competency standards.

Selection Process

Our approach to selection

At a minimum the selection process will involve assessing:

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

All Expression of Interests will be scored/ranked for shortlisting. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a face to face or online interview, and in some circumstances, this can be conducted via teleconference. SA Health will match the highest ranked candidates to the available positions of this program.

Your Expression of Interest

Your Expression of Interest must include:

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

Curriculum Vitae

In your Curriculum Vitae you are required to carefully document any professional development you have undertaken including academic and clinical achievements, quality improvements and research. The contact details for the three referees should also be current and accurate.

Cover letter

Not required.

Other Expression of Interest questions

- > *In no more than 300 words describe why training in the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence 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?*

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 the best fit for the role. Interview is likely to include invitation to describe previous experiences with 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.*
- > *Clinical competence commensurate with the postgraduate role.*

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Yes, we welcome you to come and meet us and see the region for yourself.

Will accommodation be provided?

Accommodation support is available through the RMCLHN on request.

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?

Berri is a rural town with the population of approximately 5,000 people. Some sort of private transport is required as the Riverland region is spread over quite a large area. Most locations are only 10-15 minutes away by car, 20-25 minutes by bicycle. There is a limited public transport system (bus) which runs primarily between 9am and 5pm to major towns.

Do I need to arrange for a carpark?

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

Can I get decent coffee and food in Berri?

Yes, and yes. Berri 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. There is a kiosk in the hospital that provides a wide array of freshly produced fare and serves locally roasted coffee.

What is there to do in Berri?

The benefits of living on the Murray River is it will provide you with the ultimate rural Australian experience, with meandering networks of waterways, endless horizons of orange earth and national parks makes it the ideal place to hire a kayak.

Berri is not only a riverside town, but it is surrounded by 3000 hectares of vineyards and it is only natural that Berri has a lot of wine to offer. Visit a number of the small boutique wineries around the region to have a taste of the local crisp whites and Moorish reds or dine at one of the cosy local pubs, perhaps one of the hearty restaurants or relax and enjoy the perfect cappuccino at a little riverbank cafe. You will fall in love with Berri and surrounding communities.

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Contacts

Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network: Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence

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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](#)

This Information Pack has been prepared by RMCLHN, with thanks from SA MET

For more information

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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