



College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand

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Specialist Training Program (STP) Rural Loading (RL) Funding Guidelines

Introduction

The Specialist Training Program (STP) seeks to extend vocational training for specialist registrars into settings outside traditional metropolitan teaching hospitals, including regional, rural and remote and private facilities.

Rural Loading (RL) is additional funding from the Department of Health for STP posts located in regional, rural and remote Australia. Eligibility of the post for RL is determined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Remoteness Area (RA) 2-5 classification status of the facilities where training takes place. STP posts where a trainee spends time in an RA 2-5 setting are eligible for RL. RA classifications can be checked by visiting the Department's [DoctorConnect](#) website.

RL is calculated based on time the trainee spends in regional, rural and remote Australia. Considering that trainees in regional, rural and remote settings will face additional costs when accessing training resources.

How RL can be used

The purpose of RL is to assist in meeting additional costs which the trainee may incur during their training in regional, rural and remote areas. Examples of the types of costs which may be eligible include:

- Resources (e.g. Books, computers)
- Attendance at training courses, meetings and conferences (within Australia only)
- Videoconferencing facilities
- Broadband access/IT upgrades
- Research projects (e.g. Access to online library, laboratory equipment)
- Relocation costs
- Travel expenses
- Accommodation costs

RL **cannot** be used to fund

- Trainee salaries
- Supervisor salaries or travel expenses
- Expenses involved in the accreditation of the facility as a training site
- College fees
- Hospital operating expenses not related to the trainee experience in the location

The decision to accept or reject a claim is in the absolute discretion of the CICM. Previous acceptance of a similar expenses does not guarantee that it will be allowed. If in doubt, please contact CICM.

How RL is paid

The College requires that sites provide documentary evidence to support the amounts in their RL reports for each semester. Evidence may include tax invoices, receipts, lease agreements, or trainee expenses claims. The bases of any estimates of amounts yet to be paid should be clearly set out.

Additional information and clarification may be requested. Ineligible expenses, or those which cannot be substantiated, may be identified and rejected at this point.

Please note: RL funding is linked to the trainee and will not be paid where the post is vacant, even if the training site has incurred expenditure on, for example accommodation.

Payment is made on:

- On a pro-rata basis for the proportion of training that takes place in an RA2-5 setting;
- To the training site which is responsible for the training post (the entity incorporating the post that holds a Funding and Administration Agreement with the College).

RL payment will not be made to individual trainees.

For more information

For enquiries regarding RL funding, please contact the STP Co-ordinator at the College office on sumithra@cicm.org.au / 03 9514 2826.