

## 15 ATTACHMENT A

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

#### Introduction

Rural Loading (RL) is additional funding from the Department of Health for STP posts in regional, rural and remote Australia. This is determined by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area (ASCG-RA) status of the facility/ies where training takes place, which can be checked by visiting the Department's DoctorConnect website

[www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator)

STP posts with a training component in a RA2-5 setting are eligible for RL.

#### How RL can be used

The purpose of RL is to supplement trainee-incurred expenses, including:

- Relocation costs
- Travel expenses
- Accommodation costs
- 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)

RL cannot be used to fund trainee salaries or their College fees.

#### How to apply for RL

There is no formal application process for RL. Eligible posts will be confirmed through the contracting process to inform how much funding for each post is applicable.

#### How RL is paid

Sites are to identify how they intend to use the RL in the Initial Site report that is requested in February. Once this report confirms that a trainee is in place, an invoice for RL funding may be submitted for payment. Posts may choose to pay or reimburse their trainees from RL funding.

Payment is made:

- on a pro rata basis for the proportion of training that takes place in a RA2-5 setting;
- on a pro rata basis per FTE; and
- to posts via their site (the entity incorporating the post that holds a Funding Agreement with the College), and not to individual trainees.

All posts that receive RL funding will be required to submit an Annual Report in February of the following year detailing how expenditure was utilised. The College does not require receipts to be submitted, but advises sites to retain such supporting documentation in the instance that they are audited.

For any enquiries regarding RL funding, please contact the STP Team at the College on (03) 9320 0444 or at [STP@acem.org.au](mailto:STP@acem.org.au)