

29 January 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



College of GPs helps solve workforce shortages in South Australia and the Northern Territory

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is pleased to announce that from Monday, 1 February 2010 the college can formally take enrolments for the RACGP Specialist Pathway.

The RACGP Specialist Pathway is a new assessment process for doctors who do not have current Australian medical registration but have recognised general practice qualifications from overseas and is part of a nationally agreed assessment and registration process developed in conjunction with the Australian Medical Boards, Australian Medical Council (AMC), the Department of Health and Ageing and the RACGP.

RACGP SA/NT Faculty Chair Professor Nigel Stocks said that the pathway will help to address the GP workforce shortage experienced in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

“The pathway is a fantastic initiative for international medical graduates who want to work in Australia and is also great news for the Australian communities where these doctors will make a positive contribution to primary health care.

“GPs are at the forefront of primary health care in Australia and the RACGP Specialist Pathway will help to ensure the number of GPs working in Australian communities remains at an acceptable level,” he said.

Eligible applicants are required to have a medical degree from a recognised tertiary education institution and acceptable training as a GP compared to Australian standards. Applicants for the pathway will be assessed by the RACGP and the AMC.

The RACGP is accepting eligible applications for the Specialist Pathway from the following three categories: ‘fully comparable doctors’ (category 1), ‘partially comparable doctors’ (categories 2 + 3). Eligibility criteria for the categories can be obtained from the RACGP website at www.racgp.org.au/overseastraineddoctors

For an overview of the RACGP Specialist Pathway, visit:
www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Overseastraineddoctors/specialistpath_overview.pdf

For information regarding the application process, see the Frequently Asked Questions document at
www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/educationandtraining/Assessment/Overseastraineddoctors/200912RACGPSpecialistPathwayProgramFAQs.pdf

– ends

Media contacts

Melanie Fontolliet, RACGP Media & PR Manager, 03 8699 0513 or 0424 461 622
Jessica Warne, RACGP Media & PR Coordinator, 03 8699 0442 or 0418 583 081