# General Physicians – Practise in Australia

*Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained general physicians · November 2026*

## Overview

General physicians are assessed by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Since 19 January 2026, UK general physicians with MRCP(UK) and a CCT in General (Internal) Medicine can also apply directly to Ahpra through the Medical Board's Expedited Specialist pathway.

Since the RACP introduced its Accelerated Specialist Pathway, specialists from the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong and India (and Sri Lanka for adult medicine) can be assessed on paper, with no interview, and complete about 6 to 12 months' peer review.

## General medicine in Australia

General physicians manage adult patients with complex, multi-system and undifferentiated illness. They lead acute medical units and general medical wards, and provide consultative care across hospital services.

### What Australian general physicians do

- Lead acute and general medical admissions
- Manage patients with multiple chronic conditions
- Provide consultation to surgical and other hospital teams
- Work in outpatient clinics and rural outreach
- Supervise and teach trainees

### Where they work

Public and private hospitals, with particular demand in regional and rural hospitals.

## Your pathways

There are four routes for general physicians. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and experience.

| Pathway | Who it is for | Possible outcomes | What follows | Leads to |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medical Board Expedited Specialist pathway | UK general physicians with MRCP(UK) plus a CCT in General (Internal) Medicine (including dual CCT pairings), who will practise general medicine | Eligible / not eligible (assessed by Ahpra) | Supervised practice and orientation, then specialist registration | Specialist registration; FRACP not included |
| RACP Accelerated Specialist Pathway | Specialists with a UK CCT/CCST, Irish CSCST, Hong Kong FHKAM plus FHKCP, Indian MD plus DM, or Sri Lankan MD plus PGIM board certification | Comparability decided on paper, usually about 6 weeks after a complete application | Peer review: about 6 months (UK, Ireland) or about 12 months (Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka) | Specialist registration and FRACP |

| Pathway | Who it is for | Possible outcomes | What follows | Leads to |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RACP Standard Specialist Assessment | All other overseas-trained specialists with at least 3 years' specialist training | Substantially / partially / not comparable, after a video interview | Substantially comparable: 6 to 12 months FTE peer review. Partially comparable: up to 24 months FTE supervised practice, usually 6 to 12 months' top-up training at an accredited site, then peer review | Specialist registration and FRACP |
| Area of Need | Specialists selected by an employer for a position the state or territory has declared an Area of Need | RACP supports the appointment only with suitable supervision and a substantially comparable outcome | Practise in that position under supervision | Registration tied to that position, while you complete specialist recognition |

### Points to know

- The RACP pathways have no written or clinical exams. Requirements are supervised practice, workplace-based assessment, online courses and CPD.
- You complete the RACP orientation course within 3 months and the cultural safety course within 6 months of starting.
- Your position must be at least 0.5 FTE and approved by the RACP before you start.
- A comparability decision is valid for 2 years, during which you need to secure a position and begin your requirements.
- Not comparable applicants may reapply after 2 years with further training or consultant experience.
- Dual-qualified physicians who intend to practise a subspecialty (for example cardiology) should go through RACP assessment in that subspecialty, not the Expedited pathway.

## Medical licencing process

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on which RACP pathway applies to you, your most likely outcome, and your registration and visa options.
2. **Primary source verification.** Verify your medical and specialist qualifications through the Australian Medical Council.
3. **RACP assessment.** Accelerated: a paper assessment, usually about 6 weeks. Standard: a one-hour video interview, with a decision on average within 6 months of a complete application.
4. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers. The RACP must approve your position and peer review or supervision arrangements before you start.
5. **Ahpra registration.** Limited (or provisional) registration while you complete supervised practice.
6. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
7. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption for your location.
8. **Commence practice.** Peer review or top-up training, the RACP orientation and cultural safety courses, and CPD.
9. **Fellowship and specialist registration.** Once your requirements are signed off, apply for FRACP and full specialist registration.

## Workforce, demand and remuneration

**Workforce.** General medicine is in demand across Australia, particularly in regional hospitals that rely on general physicians.

**Demand.** General medicine is on the acute-shortage list for section 19AB (as published May 2026). This means a section 19AB exemption can allow you to bill Medicare in any location. College assessment and Ahpra registration still apply.

**Remuneration.** Earnings depend on public or private practice, location and your supervision level before specialist registration. We discuss remuneration for specific opportunities with you directly.

## How Able Medico helps

Medical licencing and migration is our forte. We tell you which RACP pathway suits you, prepare your application and interview, secure an approved position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to public and private hospitals.

## Next steps

- **Start with Due Diligence:** ablemedico.com.au/able-medico-for-doctors
- **Contact us:** ablemedico.com.au/contact-us

## Sources

- Accelerated Specialist Pathway — RACP
- Standard Specialist Assessment Pathway — RACP
- Specialist pathway – specialist recognition — Medical Board of Australia
- Section 19AB – access to Medicare provider numbers for overseas trained doctors — Department of Health
- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026