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## MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2024

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### RACGP welcomes Tasmanian Labor commitment to GP training

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has welcomed Tasmanian Labor's commitment to fund training for qualified doctors from overseas to train in Tasmania.

Following [a call from RACGP Tasmania](#), the party announced it will [fund qualified overseas-trained doctors to train as GPs in Tasmania](#) under the College's Fellowship Support Program, providing the state with a significant incentive for these doctors to move to the state and join its future GP workforce.

The Fellowship Support Program is the self-funded, 24-month education and training program designed to support IMGs to qualify as a specialist GP.

The party has also committed \$2 million to allow 50 GPs to undertake emergency care training, and to legislate to allow GPs to co-prescribe for patients with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Tasmania Chair Dr Toby Gardner said funding the Fellowship Support Program would help to ensure a pipeline of highly qualified GPs for the state.

"When a practice can't find a general practitioner to take over when a GP retires, it simply has to close," he said.

"Many of my GP colleagues are thinking about retirement – around one in every three GPs is planning to retire in the next five years, [according to our 2023 Health of the Nation report](#). Meanwhile, we've seen story after story about [essential practices facing closure](#) because they [can't meet their workforce needs](#).

"Funding the Fellowship Support Program gives those GPs more opportunities to find a successor and retire, sure that their community will be well-served.

"This is a good move, and cost-effective at only \$880,000 per year to train 20 new GPs. We have seen a big response to Victoria's [incentive of up to \\$40,000](#) for doctors to train as GPs, with a big increase in the number of GPs training there after that grant was announced. We know this kind of incentive works.

"We also know that registrars and other health professionals build strong bonds to the communities they train in – doctors who train in rural regions are more likely to choose to live in those areas long-term. In a rural town, that can mean the difference between a strong community and one that struggles to assure older residents and young families that they'll have a local GP.

"It's an excellent investment and a great commitment by Tasmanian Labor."

~ENDS

RACGP spokespeople are available for interviews: [03 8699 0992](tel:0386990992) / [media@racgp.org.au](mailto:media@racgp.org.au).

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## Media contacts

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## About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is the peak representative organisation for general practice, the backbone of Australia's health system. We set the standards for general practice, facilitate lifelong learning for GPs, connect the general practice community, and advocate for better health and wellbeing for all Australians.

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