



## Evaluation of the Pre-Fellowship Program for International Medical Graduates Pilot

Information Bulletin

### BACKGROUND

Health Workforce Queensland and Rural Workforce Agencies (RWA) National Coordination Units have engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to evaluate the Pre-Fellowship Program (PFP) Pilot.

The Australian Government funds the PFP Pilot as part of the 2023–24 Budget investment in the Strengthening Medicare Initiative. This program provides \$30.5 million over two financial years (2023–24 to 2024–25) to support Overseas Trained Doctors and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are temporary or permanent residents of Australia and other non-vocationally recognised (non-VR) doctors to:

- gain valuable general practice experience before joining a general practitioner (GP) college-led fellowship pathway
- work in primary care settings in areas of need (Distribution Priority Areas), thus improving access to general practice in these areas

The RWAs administer the PFP and allow participating doctors to access Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items. Access to MBS items is granted once a doctor is approved for the PFP placement by the administering RWA, added to the s3GA Register of Approved Placements, and granted a Medicare provider number by Services Australia.

The PFP provides funding towards the cost of supervision and learning and development for IMGs on limited or provisional registration, based on the level of supervision required and the rurality of practice. This funding supports revenue GPs may otherwise forgo when supervising PFP doctors. A small amount (up to 10%) is also provided to the practice to support administration costs and support IMGs in undertaking learning and development activities.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The aims of the evaluation are to:

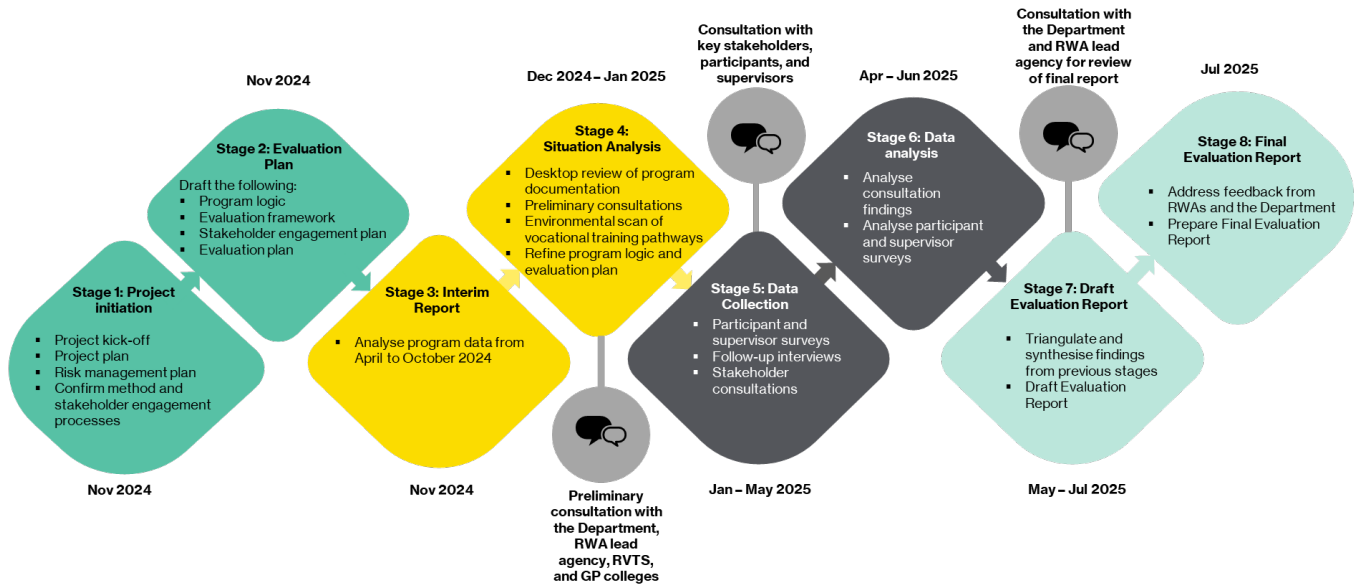
- assess the implementation of the PFP Pilot
- evaluate the implementation, effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness, and awareness/reach of the PFP Pilot.

### PROJECT METHOD AND TIMING

The PFP Pilot evaluation commenced in November 2024 and is scheduled to be completed by July 2025. Figure 1 presents a high-level overview of the evaluation methodology and timing, including consultation processes.

Stakeholder consultation will occur throughout the project. HMA will conduct preliminary consultations with the Department and RWAs during Stage 4: Situation analysis (January 2025) to inform refinement of the program logic and evaluation plan. Participant and supervisor surveys, follow-up interviews and consultation with key stakeholders will occur in Stage 5: Data collection (January–May 2025). This will include consultation with RWAs, the Department, GP colleges, state and territory health departments, and rural generalist coordinating units. HMA will review findings with the Department and RWAs and include feedback in Stage 8: Final evaluation report (July 2025).

Figure 1: Evaluation of the Pre-Fellowship Program for International Medical Graduates Pilot timeline



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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