



## **Faculty of Pain Medicine ANZCA**

Developing flexible accreditation pathways for pain medicine training in rural settings

### **Information bulletin**

## CONTEXT

The Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) – Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) has engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to identify flexible accreditation models for training pathways in rural areas.

The FPM conducts the education, training and continuing professional development of specialist pain medicine physicians (SPMPs) primarily in Australia and New Zealand. The two-year post-speciality training program takes place in units accredited by FPM that provide pain care as part of a multidisciplinary team of nurses, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, exercise physiologists and physiotherapists.

Approximately 28 per cent of Australia's population live in regional, rural and remote areas, yet Australians living in these areas disproportionately account for 34.4 per cent of those who live with chronic pain. In rural areas, access to SPMPs to manage and support people experiencing pain is limited, compounding the impact of pain and its consequences on quality of life and broader society. Understanding the barriers and enablers for regional-based health settings to achieve the FPM accreditation standards will aid in identifying flexible models of training and accreditation pathway models. The learnings accompanying these models will inform FPM in its approach to piloting them in several regionally based pain units in Australia.

The longer-term vision of FPM is to expand the flexible model approach to other regions and jurisdictions in Australia and potentially New Zealand (subject to evaluation and funding).

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to identify sustainable and flexible models of accreditation that would support the training of SPMPs in regional areas. The project will undertake activities to understand:

- barriers to and enablers for regional and rural pain medicine training accreditation
- unique opportunities offered to trainees in regional and rural pain medicine training
- barriers and enablers for practising pain medicine in regional and rural areas
- how regional and rural-based trainees and supervisors can leverage centralised resources and support
- opportunities for flexibility in training and accreditation requirements

## PROJECT METHOD AND TIMING

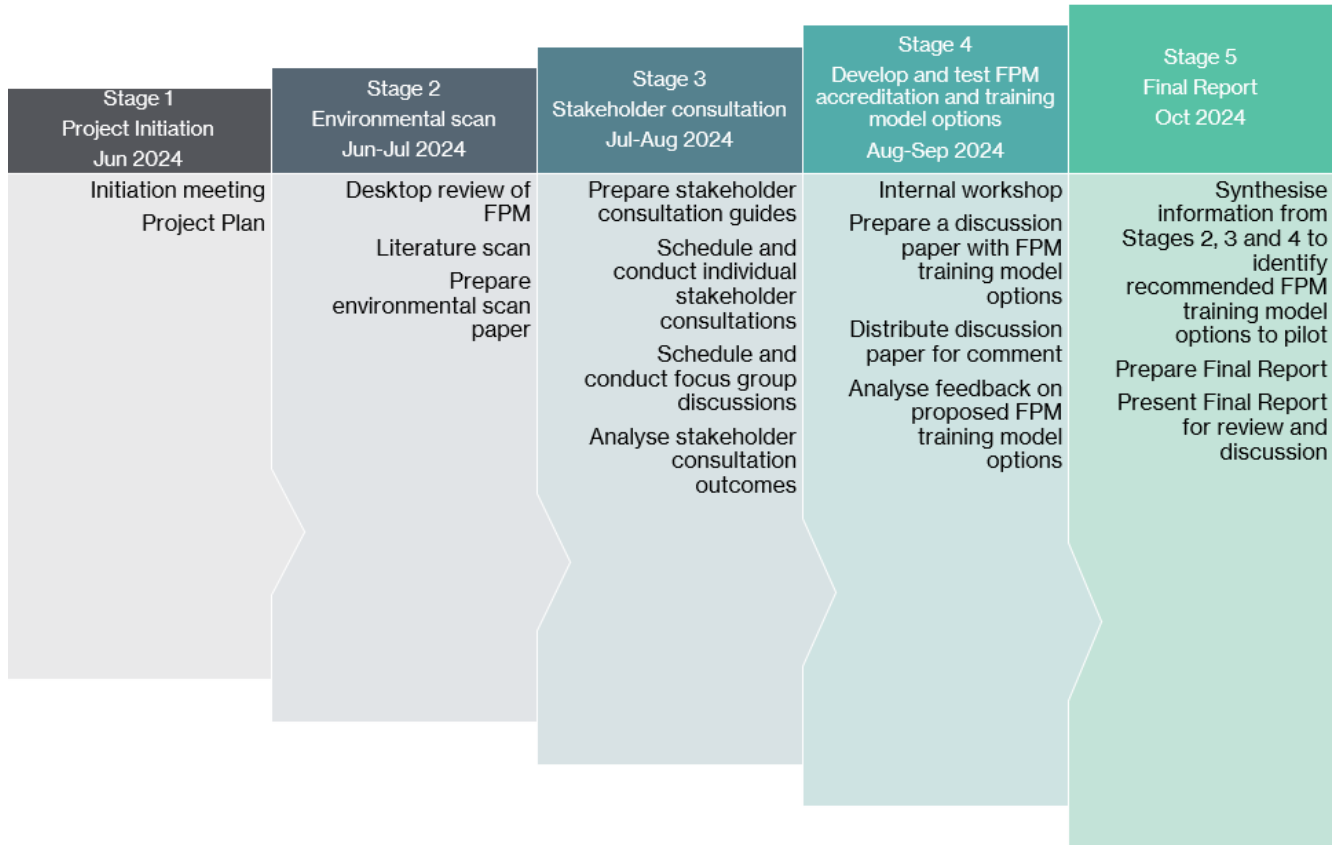
The project will be undertaken in the period June to October 2024. HMA will take a staged approach to executing the project, including an environmental scan and stakeholder consultation process.

The stakeholder consultation process will be undertaken between July and September 2024:

- consultation with stakeholders to understand the barriers, enablers, and opportunities for flexible training models in regional areas will occur from July to August 2024
- a discussion paper with FPM training model options will be distributed for feedback in September 2024.

Figure 1 presents a high-level overview of the project approach by stage and activities.

Figure 1: Project approach



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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