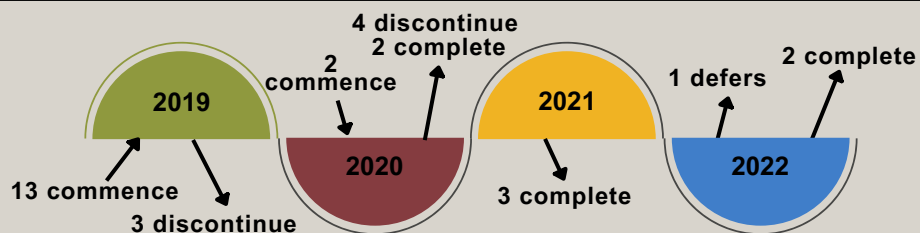


Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway

Evaluation of 2019/ 2020 cohort

In 2019 with Rural Health Workforce Strategy funding, SA Health introduced the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway as a workforce strategy for allied health professionals. Implementation of the pathway was supported by the Rural Support Service and regional local health networks. Trainees completed rural generalist training through James Cook University and contributed to local service development projects.

Trainee timeline



Trainees came from all 6 regional local health networks

Level 1 Program

- < 3 years experience
- 12 x 6 week modules

Level 2

Graduate Diploma of Rural Generalist Practice

- > 2 years experience
- 8 x 6-12 week subjects

	Commenced	Completed
Occupational therapy	4 icons	2 icons
Physiotherapy	3 icons	2 icons
Podiatry	4 icons	1 icon
Social work	1 icon	0 icons
Speech pathology	3 icons	1 icon

Benefits

Skills and knowledge



- Increased confidence and competence in rural and remote practice
- Developed evidence-based practice skills

Supporting rural communities



- Increased access to and outcomes of allied health services
- Service development skills

Career advancement



- Support structures
- Career progression and promotional opportunities
- Operational and leadership skills

Economic benefits



- Reduced staff turnover
- Reduced recruitment costs
- Increased intention to stay

Challenges

Time



- Fitting in study at work
- Work life balance
- Sustaining motivation

Practice translation



- Implementing learning into practice
- Relevance of coursework

Support



- Support from organisation
- Limited interaction with fellow trainees
- Support from university

Impact



- Career progression
- Recognition of training
- Sustainability of pathway

Increased retention and intention to stay

Reduced recruitment costs



Level 1 trainees completed



Level 2 trainees completed/continuing



Graduates working in regional local health networks after 6 months

*“There’s **skills** I’ve gained in this that I wouldn’t have otherwise ever gained. And the **development** and **career opportunities** that it’s really opened up.”*

Evaluation led by Flinders University

For more information: [Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway](#) | SA Health