

A Life Less Ordinary: Anaesthesia Training in the Northern Territory



Contents

SANTRATS Registrars (NT Stream)	1
Independent Registrars	2
Royal Darwin & Palmerston Hospital	2
Alice Springs Hospital.....	3
Selection Criteria.....	4
Essential.....	4
Desirable	4
Applications.....	4
Enquiries	4

SANTRATS Registrars (NT Stream)

Royal Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals are combining with the existing South Australia & Northern Territory Rotational Anaesthetic Training Scheme (SANTRATS) to broaden the opportunities for trainees within the Northern Territory from February 2027.

Trainees will commence a 4-year program in either Darwin or Alice Springs – with 3 years training in the NT (including 3 months ICU), and 1 year in South Australia (advanced training only). Contracts will initially be for 12 months but extended without ongoing application if training requirements are met (see below).

If, at the time of application, you meet any of the following criteria, you are not eligible to apply to SANTRATS and should apply for an independent position:

- Introductory trainee – extended (IT-E).
- Basic trainee – extended (BT-E).
- Advanced trainee – extended (AT-E).
- Following the ANZCA specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) pathway.
- If you have had three prior unsuccessful applications to join SANTRATS (all unsuccessful applications prior to 2027 entry count as one attempt).

Once appointed to the scheme, SANTRATS trainees are assured access to ANZCA-accredited anaesthesia training sites to complete the ANZCA training program requirements within four years of training. Trainees joining the scheme part-way through training do not have the same assurance but will be offered appropriate rotations wherever possible. Progression through this rotation depends on the successful completion of the primary exam, plus other training requirements as per the curriculum. If the primary exam has been attempted but not successfully completed in Basic Training, trainees will be able to remain on the scheme for one year of BT-E (extended basic training) to complete the primary exam. Failure to attempt the primary exam during basic training or successfully complete the primary exam during the first year of BT-E or meet other training requirements will mean you will not be reappointed to the scheme.

Trainees remain on the scheme for four years without having to be re-interviewed if all training and requirements are met. However, there is a formal process of reappointment; trainees are required to complete an annual trainee questionnaire. This is required by the rotational supervisors for ongoing rotational rostering, review of status of hospital contracts and confirmation of ongoing support from the supervisor of training and directors of the anaesthesia departments. Reappointment is at the discretion of the department directors.

Independent Registrars

Royal Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals both have Independent registrar positions available.

Royal Darwin & Palmerston Hospital

The Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital (RDPH) Department of Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine is keen to welcome Anaesthetic Registrars who seek challenging medicine, sociocultural variety and a tropical lifestyle to join our team – commencing in August 2026 and onwards.

We live and work on Larrakia land, the home of the Saltwater people. We are honoured to share, respect and care for their country, elders and the wider First Nations community.

You'll be joining a proudly diverse department. We are a team of friendly and supportive anaesthetists, with a strong balance of genders, cultures, families, singles, LGBTQI and dynamic outside interests. Australia's most spectacular National Parks are in our backyard and Asia is on our doorstep - with short flights to Bali, Dili, and Singapore.

Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital is one of the most geographically isolated tertiary hospitals in Australia. It is a 400-bed hospital for over 180,000 people from a catchment of over one million square kilometres (Palmerston Regional Hospital provides an additional 170 beds). Around 14,000 operations are performed annually between the two campuses. We cover most surgical specialties except cardiac surgery. This includes a high emergency and trauma surgery caseload,

approximately 15% paediatrics and ~2200 obstetric deliveries including significant high-risk cases. Our patients face extraordinary challenges including a high burden of chronic disease, social disadvantage and extreme geographic isolation. Our First Nations community forms 27% of the NT population but make up 50% of hospital inpatients.

Our department runs the Acute Pain Service, the Perioperative Medicine service and the Hyperbaric Unit. Clinical support services include an 18 bed ICU with ECMO and a Level 5 NICU. Regular outreach support is provided to regional hospitals in Gove and Katherine. Our teaching programs include Introductory training, Part 1 and Part 2 exam programs, as well as regular involvement in simulation training.

Medical officers are entitled to 6 weeks recreation leave per year (plus additional for rostered Sunday shifts), study and exam leave. Relocation is supported.

Alice Springs Hospital

Alice Springs Hospital has a catchment area of over 1,000,000 km². We care for some of the nation's most socially disadvantaged people, with high levels of morbidity and mortality, many with diseases not seen elsewhere in the country

Spectacular national parks surround Alice Springs. The lifestyle is laid back with an emphasis on outdoor activities and the arts. The world-renowned Larapinta trail offers amazing trekking opportunities with incredible mountain bike trails as well as walking trails within 3 to 4 Kilometres of the town. The central desert region of Australia is unique. It is a friendly, welcoming place suited to doctors with a sense of adventure and those interested in indigenous health issues, not generally seen by most doctors in Australia

Alice Springs Hospital is a 183-bed teaching hospital affiliated with the Flinders University in South Australia and Charles Darwin University in Darwin. Over two thirds of acute admissions are Aboriginal people both from town and remote communities. Consequently, cultural, language and communication skills are an important component of our service delivery. Our medicine is complex, including good old fashioned "hands-on" care.

The Anaesthetic department consists of 4 Consultants and 6 GP Anaesthetists. We have a strong commitment to teaching with training positions for the GP Anaesthesia programme (DRGA) and we are accredited for two years of ANZCA training. Registrars rotate from Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department as well as Residents and Medical Students

We have regular protected department teaching sessions as well as regular Simulation sessions

Alice Springs Hospital works closely with Tennant Creek Hospital and Royal Darwin Hospital. The hospital has strong links to Royal Adelaide Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre as tertiary referral centres and through visiting specialists from these hospitals.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency and General registration with the Medical Board of Australia.
2. Completed 104 weeks of pre-vocational medical education and training with at least 52 weeks of experience in areas of practice other than clinical anaesthesia, intensive care medicine and pain medicine.
3. Demonstrated interpersonal, leadership, oral and written communication skills and to interact positively in a cross-cultural work environment
4. Experience in Clinical Anaesthesia

Desirable

1. Experience or commitment to health care delivery in the Northern Territory
2. Experience working in and/or commitment to Regional/Rural settings
3. Experience working in a clinical environment with First Nations Peoples
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the ANZCA training program, and an aptitude and commitment necessary to complete it

Applications

- Apply via <https://jobs.nt.gov.au/>
- Applications for RDPH Independent Registrar positions AND SANTRATS (NT Stream) via Royal Darwin Hospital
- Applications for Alice Springs Independent Registrar positions via Alice Springs Hospital
- Applications should include
 - o a cover letter addressing the selection criteria
 - o 3 referees (at least 1 must be a current Supervisor of Training or Director/Deputy Director).
- Cover letter should include whether you wish to apply for the Independent registrar position only, SANTRATS (NT Stream) only, or whether you wish to be considered for *both* positions.

Enquiries

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