



Training Update



Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) report

At the recent General Practice Supervisor's meeting in Adelaide an update on the current situation across Australia was provided. The opportunity to update on the various local initiatives across Australia was revealing. For 2018 there will be significant changes to the selection process for registrars. A \$700 fee for an exam is the first step. The RACGP will receive 1350 registrars and ACRRM 150 registrars.

It was emphasised that GP supervisor's still need to continue to lobby together on a state and national basis. Only Queensland and Victoria have more than one regional training provider and concerns were raised about the level of control that the RTO's may have over selection, placement and financing. A comparison across the training providers of GP supervisor payments confirm that GPSynergy payments to supervisors and practices is at a level better than most.

The GP Supervisor's Australia website - <http://gpsupervisorsaustralia.org.au/> is now updated and functioning much better. You are encouraged to browse this website. If by chance a supervisor is not a member of GPSA the website will provide direction to ensure long-term membership.

Considerable debate and consideration about GP supervisor professional development took place. The level of training and number of hours required will almost certainly become a requirement for training accreditation of the practice. There was strong agreement that supervisor training could be done mostly via the web. There will be further news by the end of 2017 on the training requirements for supervision.

At present, the RTOs are responsible for ongoing professional development opportunities for supervisors. GP Synergy will continue to offer professional development for supervisors in a variety of face to face, webinar and online formats. GP Synergy recommends supervisors attend initial and ongoing professional development, this can be met in a variety of ways. For more information please review the [GP Synergy Supervisor Professional Development Requirements](#).

The Department of Health presented on many issues. In particular the concerns with rural distribution and workforce were discussed and it apparently is being given sincere consideration in the interest of equity for practices and rural communities. Direct payments to supervisors, support and MBS or PIP payments were all considered as options. 2018 will see 60 fulltime equivalent rural interns placed in rural practices as a replacement for the PGPPP program.

There continues to be instances of conflict at the practice level with supervisors and trainees. The supervisor liaison officers are always available to assist should there be conflict or with any other issue regarding GP training.

Dr Ken Mackey

Supervisor Liaison Officer - Murrumbidgee (and ACT interim)

Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) vacancies

Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO) act as a liaison person between GP registrars and GP Synergy. The SLO's role is to advocate for, and represent registrars at the RTP management level, and provide input into relevant programs and communications.

GP Synergy is currently seeking expressions of interest for SLOs in subregions: Hunter New England Central Coast; Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney; and ACT.

Hours and locations are flexible. Position descriptions are available from our website: <http://gpsynergy.com.au/about-us/employment-opportunities/>. For further information, please contact Human Resources Manager, Nicky Doneva on nicky.doneva@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.



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2017.2 Term placement update

The deadline for practices to update registrar training vacancies for the 2017.2 term has now passed.

Next steps:

- **19 April 2017:** GP Synergy is reviewing the available capacity in your subregion and may apply a cap on the number of registrars per practice or per supervisor to ensure equitable distribution across the subregion. On 19 April 2017, you will be advised of the outcomes of this review and any subsequent caps on capacity applied in your subregion. The application of these caps may affect the number of registrars your practice is able to employ.
- **Midday 24 April:** Registrars can apply to practices within their assigned grouping.

Reminder:

- Registrars who train up to 28 hours = 0.5 in cap
- Registrars who train between 28.1 hours and 38 hours = 1 in cap.
- Registrars who will be in an EAF term will be included in the cap.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility if they can meet their subregion training location requirements and college requirements (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- The method used to select registrars is up to the practice.
- Applications for placements must be made through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation will be accepted.

For assistance:

Please don't hesitate to contact your local Practice Liaison and Support Coordinator if you require any assistance at any time.

Useful term placement resources

GPRime2 – Forms, Document and Links

There are a number of useful resources available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Practices](#)'.

This includes:

- term placement webinar recording (conducted in March 2017)
- overview of term placement for supervisors and practices
- term placement FAQs for supervisors and practices
- term placement flowchart
- grouping maps
- term placement GPRime2 instructional videos.



Key dates

- 19 Apr:** Practices notified of training placement caps.
- 24 Apr:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping
- 22 May:** Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*
- 23 Jun:** Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2017.2 term
- 17 July:** Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP *
- 6 Aug:** End date term 1 2017
- 7 Aug:** Start date term 2 2017
- 4 Feb:** End date term 2 2018

*These dates are indicative only and may vary if a registrar is part-time or commenced a GP term after the first week of term.



EOIs now open for GPTE Conference and Combined Supervisor PD Workshop

GPTEC: 16-17 Aug

GPTEC abstract submissions have now closed and the response has been overwhelming! A large number of diverse abstracts were received for the two-day conference which will take place at the new Sydney International Convention Centre in Sydney from 16-17 Aug (welcome function from 15 Aug). GP Synergy is offering a limited number of subsidised places for GP supervisors. Supervisors travel and accommodation will be subsidised.

Supervisor Professional Development Day: 18 Aug

Following the conference, on Friday 18 August, is the one day combined supervisor PD workshop. Featuring four streams, all GP Synergy supervisors are invited to attend and will be paid for their attendance (up to 8 hours) plus travel and accommodation.

Expression of interest to attend:

An expression of interest with further information about the two events has been circulated by email to all supervisors with a deadline for RSVPs of 24 April 2017.

If you did not receive the EOI, please contact Claire Doyle on claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.

Supervisor workshops

This month's regional supervisor workshops have been marked with severe weather conditions. From flooding in the far North Coast, to hail storms in Sydney creating gridlock, this past month has seen it all!

We were delighted so many supervisors were able to brave the conditions and make it to the recent workshops across the regions.

If you weren't able to attend, please check the supervisor calendar at the back of this update for nearby regional activities.

Please note: There has been a date change of the New England/North West Supervisor event to 3 June 2017.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact your local event coordinator.



Far North Coast severe weather conditions

We hope all our Far North Coast staff, supervisors, practice staff and registrars managed to stay safe during the recent storms and floods.

Due to the extreme weather conditions, the scheduled GPT1/2 or PRRT1/2 North Coast registrar workshop was cancelled.

We are currently finalising alternative arrangements for these registrars to meet their education requirements, and we will be in touch with all affected practices and registrars shortly.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.



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New rural generalist/procedural training resources for registrars and prevocational doctors

Procedural GPs play an important role in many rural communities. They are integral to providing high quality healthcare, close to home, for rural and remote Australians.

To help doctors understand more about what a GP proceduralist/rural generalist is and how to become one, we have developed some useful resources including:

- A list of commonly asked questions
- A map showing the locations where doctors can train, and where they can practise O&G and anaesthesia skills in NSW and ACT
- A video featuring Procedural GP, Dr Scott Finlay from Moree demonstrating the role and diversity of a career as a GP proceduralist.

To access these resources visit our website: <https://gpsynergy.com.au/training-programs/procedural-rural-generalist-training/>

For further information about procedural training opportunities, please contact GP Synergy Special Education and Programs Manager, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.



AGPT application information sessions in full swing

To promote the opening of the 2018 Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program applications (10 April – 8 May 2017), information sessions have been underway across the state and territory.

Sessions to date have been held in Broken Hill, Tamworth, Tweed Heads, Orange, Canberra, and across Sydney, just to name a few.

A big thanks to all the doctors that have participated in these sessions or helped in other promotional activities to raise the profession's profile.

Applications for the 2018 AGPT program are now open and close at 10.00am AEST on 8 May 2017.

If you know of any doctors thinking about applying for 2018, please tell them to visit the GP Synergy, ACRRM and/or RACGP websites for more information or contact us on applicant@gpsynergy.com.au



Registrar support updated

GP Synergy provides financial support for rural pathway registrars to undertake ALS/AMST courses, as well as costs towards relocation. The amount of financial support is scaled in line with the remoteness of training location based on the Modified Monash (MMM) system.

This information has recently been updated.

To access:

1. login to GPRime2
2. head to 'Forms, Documents and Links' top toolbar
3. search 'Registrar support guidelines'.

Please contact your local rural support officer if you have any queries.

Congratulations to RACGP fellowship award winner: Dr Matt Crilly

GP Synergy warmly congratulates Lower Eastern NSW general pathway registrar, Dr Matt Crilly for being the highest scoring candidate in NSW and the ACT in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Fellowship Objective Simulated Clinical Exam (OSCE) for the 2016.2 term.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

For more information see an article about Matt in the [Camden Advertiser](#).



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New England/North West registrar networking dinner

To help registrars settle into rural communities, GP Synergy is hosting a series of rural registrar networking events.

The first of these was recently held in Armidale during the GPT1/PRRT1 and GPT2/PRRT2 registrar workshop. It was great to see so many registrars there.

If you would like to know details of upcoming activities, or require any rural support, please contact your local rural support officer.



GP Synergy AMS Practice Management Diploma participant tops the state!

Karl Briscoe has been named as the most outstanding graduate in the 2016 Diploma of Practice Management at the TAFE NSW Open Training Education Network (OTEN) Student Awards.

Formerly the Clinical Services Manager at Galambila Aboriginal Medical Service at Coffs Harbour and now CEO at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association, Karl completed the GP Synergy/TAFE OTEN Practice Management Diploma for AMS services in October 2016.

The diploma was first launched in 2015 after it was identified that none of the existing practice management diplomas on the market reflected the complex social, cultural, and clinical dimensions that need to be coordinated and work in harmony for successful Aboriginal health service delivery.

To fill this gap, GP Synergy commissioned TAFE OTEN Western Sydney to develop a tailored practice management diploma for AMS staff.

Now entering its third year, 34 AMS staff have been supported by GP Synergy to successfully complete the nationally recognised diploma.

Featuring face to face and distance learning delivery, participants have come from across NSW/ACT including Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Coonamble, Kempsey, Moree, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Tamworth, Walgett and Wyong.

Expressions of interest are now being sought for the 2017 GP Synergy/TAFE OTEN Practice Management Diploma. For more information, please contact Darren Green ASAP on darren_green@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.



Are you an ADF facility?

GP Synergy has staff with dedicated ADF portfolios to support ADF facilities, supervisors and registrars. For assistance, please contact:

- **Felicity Gemmell-Smith** | Special Education Programs Manager - felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Dr Anne Eastwood** | Deputy Director Education and Training - anne_eastwood@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Dr Nicole Leotta** | Senior Medical Educator - nicole_leotta@gpsynergy.com.au



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Need some help?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
 - Lexi Kyle - 02 8321 4075
lexi_kyle@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
 - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
 - Emie Roy - 02 8321 4068
emie_roy@gpsynergy.com.au
- **New England/Northwest:**
 - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
 - Rhonda O'Dell - 02 8321 4126
rhonda_odell@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
 - Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211
kim_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
 - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
 - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au

Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Dr Ken Hazelton - ken_hazelton@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Dr James Boyd - james_boyd@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Dr John Vaughan - john_vaughan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Dr Cecile Dinh - cecile_dinh@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
Dr Ken Mackey - ken_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the SLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

Positions vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an SLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following SLO positions:

- Hunter New England Central Coast
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney
- ACT

Upcoming activities of interest

- Cremorne GP Group | Last Tuesday every month | Cremorne | [More information](#)
- FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive and Sexual Health for Doctors | 13-14 May & 24-25 Jun & 29 & 30 Jul | Canberra | [More information](#)
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health - Youth Health Conference | 6-7 July | Sydney | [More information](#)
- NSW Health and RACGP run regular webinars about immunisation related topics. Previous webinars and resources can be accessed at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/webinar.aspx>

For further information please see the [External Education Activity Noticeboard](#)