



# Training Update



## Director of Education and Training update

It's hard to believe another year is almost over. Time flies when you are having fun and seeing patients!

The big news this month has been the GP training reform announcement recently made by the Minister for Health and Sport, Hon. Greg Hunt at the GP17 Conference.

In case you missed the email from our CEO John Oldfield, the minister announced that negotiations are now underway with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) for them to take responsibility for the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program from 2022, with a transition period between 2019-2022.

This arrangement has been expected, and will bring many benefits for GP training into the future.

You can read the full email about the announcement [here](#). We will keep you updated with any news as we receive it, however please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

In the meantime, take advantage of patients heading away for the holidays and take time to restock and have a breather. Have a look at what you have learned this year and what gaps you still need to review – especially if exams are looming.

A great tool to use is the GP Synergy Self-Assessment Grid (search for it in "Forms, Documents & Links" on GPRime) which assesses your confidence in areas of general practice, it's a great place to start, especially if you are unsure which direction your study plans should go.

As it's half way through the term you should have received some formal feedback from your supervisor and a clinical teaching visitor (if you are in your early GP terms), as well as lots of informal feedback about your progress in training. If you haven't, have a chat to your supervisor about them sitting in on some consultations to provide feedback to you.

It is also a good time to give some feedback to the practice – how have you found the supervision and teaching? Is it meeting your learning needs? Would you like more structured teaching or more time to ask questions about tricky patients? Your supervisor can't improve if they don't know what to improve on. Formative feedback forms can be found on GPRime2 in your Trainee Portfolio under the "Requirements" tab.

### Trainee Portfolio

Haber, Simon  
Cohort 2017

Basic Information Summary Placements **Requirements** Correspondence Events Trainee Details Other Information Print Portfolio

Expand All Collapse All Search/Filter

**GPT1** Commenced: 7/8/2017

Competency Grid Competency Assessments Learning Planner Transfer Document

Requirement(s)	Due	Type	Source/Approval	Files	Submitted by	Status
Formative Assessment – Supervisor by Registrar		N/A	iForm			Completed(06/10/2017)

Don't forget to pause too. Make sure you have a lunch break, take a walk in the sun or read a fun book. Look after yourself first so you can look after your patients better. Check in with your GP or other support person if you need to. GPRa also have some handy resources to help <https://gpra.org.au/wellbeing/>

Enjoy the holidays and don't forget to check in with your medical educator this term if you haven't already.

**Dr Vanessa Moran** | Director of Education and Training – NSW and ACT

# Evaluation at GP Synergy – We hear you!

The evaluations team have recently visited different regions to speak with you about evaluating the GP Synergy registrar training program, and we want to thank you for your input and honest feedback. We have collated your comments and are working to implement changes to improve the evaluation process where possible.

A key role of evaluation involves closing the 'feedback loop' and communicating key findings and any resultant changes with you. To get the ball rolling, we offer some highlights and key themes that have emerged from feedback on Fusion and recent regional workshops.

## Brief evaluation highlights

### Fusion 2017:

- 58% response rate to the registrar survey.
- Average rating of 4.48 out of 5 for overall value as an educational experience.
- Stand-out sessions included ENT, fitness to drive, STDs and blood-borne viruses, ophthalmology and paediatric orthopaedics.
- Common suggestions for improvement included, less pre-reading, revising the content of the diabetes session, shorter time spent on domestic violence and e-mental health.

### Examples of constructive comments:

"Really good to have Fusion workshop & meet other registrars from other regions to hear about their experiences & the services available in their local region."

"Felt that too much was provided as pre-reading material. Would prefer if less, key pieces were sent pre-workshop, then could send more after the workshop as reference if need be."

### Changes to the 2018 Fusion program:

After review of the Fusion evaluations as well as taking into consideration bi-college curricula requirements, the Committee Overseeing Registrar Education (CORE) made the following changes to the 2018 program:

- Domestic violence has been moved into all regional programs where this sensitive issue can be addressed in smaller groups and contextualised to your region of practice.
- Registrars will be notified of e-mental health resources via online methodology making more time for sessions that required it.
- S8 prescribing will also be delivered in the regional workshops to all registrars starting their first GP term and will be contextualised pending whether registrars are working in NSW and/or ACT as the rules for prescribing can be regionally specific and variable.
- Standout sessions will remain in the 2018 Fusion program but more time allocated to these as needed.
- While it was understood the amount of pre-reading material was large it will be provided earlier for registrars to access and some will be allocated as post-session reading resources.

## Foundations Day and regional workshops (to date) key findings

- Average 70% response rate to registrar surveys and average overall workshop rating of 4.24 out of 5.
- Workshops were generally considered useful, well-delivered and relevant by a majority of registrars.
- Most registrars found the small group activities, interactive discussions and cases to be particularly helpful.
- Many registrars would like more training in Medicare billing and dermatology.
- Common suggestions for improvements included clearer access to pre-activities and lecture slides, more of a 'KFP focus' in sessions, making workshop locations more easily accessible by public transport and/or adequate parking.

### Examples of constructive comments:

"Covered a lot of conditions, I loved the interactive nature of the talk- really helped my engagement and recall."

"Longer session time or more sessions from this presenter. It was an excellent talk, just a lot of material to cover, would have benefited from more time."

### Regional Medical Education (ME) team comments:

- Regional workshops' evaluations are reviewed by the regional ME team; suggestions to increase the amount of time spent on topics will be reviewed and actioned where possible.
- Regional workshops will continue to focus on topics not easily learnt in textbooks and journals. They will also continue to include small group work, case discussions and procedural skills in order to keep sessions as interactive as possible with the further consequence in enhancing the educational experience.
- The registrar education program will increasingly focus on clinical reasoning to help address techniques required for both KFP and StAMPS examinations.

Watch this space for further updates of changes being made in 2018.

In the meantime, please continue to share your views. It is important to hear from all of you – whether positive, negative or neutral – it all counts to better inform changes for the future.

## Dr Hamze Hamze: Making the transition from registrar to supervisor



*Dr Hamze Hamze arrived in Moree in 2013 as a GP registrar, four years on he's passionate about living in Moree and working at Pius X Aboriginal Corporation, where he is also a GP supervisor.*

Cultural diversity is just one of the things that Dr Hamze enjoys about living in Moree.

"I didn't really know what to expect at first. We ended up staying because it's just so great in terms of the community ... really nice people, generous and very welcoming.

"When I first started my training, I felt this is really what I wanted, I felt very comfortable.

"It's not just my personal experience, I came here with my wife and one son, now we have three kids. If my wife didn't like it here we wouldn't have lasted this long," Dr Hamze said.

Dr Hamze recommends training in both a rural area and in an Aboriginal health training post.

"My message to GP registrars is come to the country and give it a try because the vast majority of people who come to the country end up staying a lot longer than they thought, as they end up liking it.

"The GPs [at Pius X] definitely get involved in the local Aboriginal community and GP registrars get a much better understanding of the medical and social problems, it gives you a really good understanding of what things are like and why.

"There are a lot of things that are common aspects of general practice regardless of the culture. That's what attracted me to this job more than anything else – the fact that you actually form a relationship with patients and often with their families," he said.

Becoming a GP supervisor wasn't something Dr Hamze had planned to do, but when Pius X wanted to train GP registrars and there wasn't a supervisor available, he agreed to step up. He's now making the most of the resources available to GP supervisors.

"Medical knowledge is not the problem, it's learning to be a good supervisor".

"The registrar we have at the moment is term 4. By the time we have more junior registrars I will have gained more experience as a teacher," Dr Hamze said.

There's also been an unexpected benefit in living in Moree, Dr Hamze had thought he was the only person in the world with the same first and surname. That is, until he moved to Moree – he has met two other people in the same predicament.

"I'm never going to forgive my Dad for my name, I get asked about 10 times a day why I have the same first and surname," Dr Hamze said.

## Key dates



**20 Nov:** Formative assessment of supervisor due for registrars in their first or second GP terms.\*

**1 Dec:** RACGP 2018.1 AKT & KFP exam enrolment closes.

**15 Dec:** Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork.

**15 Jan:** Formative assessment of supervisor due for all registrars in GP terms\*.

**22 Jan:** ACRRM 2018.1 assessment/s enrolment closes.

**4 Feb:** End date 2017.2 term.

**5 Feb:** Start date 2018.1 term.

**29 Mar:** RACGP 2018.1 OSCE exam enrolment closes.

**5 Aug:** End date 2018.1 term.

\*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.

## Want to know what it's like to work in Aboriginal health?



Find out what it's really like to work in an Aboriginal health training post by watching a short video featuring several registrars and doctors sharing their Aboriginal health experience.

Video: [Why train in an ACCHS?](#)

A big thanks to all the staff, registrars and supervisors that helped create this important resource.

## Congratulations to Dr Teena Downton – ACRRM Registrar of the Year



A warm congratulations goes to Western NSW rural pathway GP registrar, Dr Teena Downton (pictured left) for being one of two registrars to win the ACRRM Registrar of the Year Award at the recent Rural Medicine Australia 17 Conference.

## Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term events:

- **Western NSW Node 2** – Murrumbidgee and ACT: 2 Dec – half day (various locations)
- **Western NSW Node 3** – Sth Eastern NSW and ACT | 16-17 Nov, Canberra | 30 Nov or 1 Dec – half day (various locations)
- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 1** – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney: Procedural skills days 2 or 9 Dec
- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 2** – Sth Eastern NSW and Wollongong: 15-17 Nov, Wollongong
- **Lower Eastern NSW Node 3**: Sth Eastern NSW and ACT: 16-17 Nov, Canberra | 30 Nov or 1 Dec – half day (various locations)
- **North Eastern NSW Node 1** – North Coast: 6-8 Dec, Coffs Harbour
- **North Eastern NSW Node 2** – New England/ Northwest: 20-22 Nov, Tamworth
- **North Eastern NSW Node 3** – Hunter, Manning and Central Coast: 16-17 Nov, Newcastle
- **North Eastern NSW Node 4** – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney: Procedural skills days 2 or 9 Dec

## Exam preparation workshops

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now being planned for registrars sitting the exams in 2018.1 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: [shirleen\\_chand@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au)
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently being planned for registrars sitting ACRRM assessments. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: [claire\\_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au)

## Upcoming events of interest

- The University of Sydney - Getting Healthy Before Pregnancy | 18 November | Kingswood | [More information](#)
- Sydney Children's Hospitals Network - 2017 Annual Paediatric Update For General Practitioners | 25 November | Randwick | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 25-26 November | Coffs Harbour | [More information](#)
- Community Paediatric Department, Sydney LHD, NSW Health - The Well Child Health Program | [Online Learning Resource](#)
- National Prescribing Service Resources | [Online Learning Resource](#)
- headspace | [GP Online Training](#)

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

## Need some help?

### Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**  
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### Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**  
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- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**  
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- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**  
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### Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**  
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