



Training Update



Supervisor training update

I'm not sure if it's just me or if time is flying for everyone. It's June already and 2018 is almost half over!

Winter started with the #CrazySocks4Docs day which is a reminder to all of us that doctors are people too and it is important to look after our own mental health, as well as that of our colleagues. The supervisor role can be a stressful one at times, and looking after patient as well as registrar well-being can mean we forget to look after ourselves. Please make sure you take some time out for yourself and if you do need some help be sure to ask for it, whether that be from your GP, your SLO, the PLSO or maybe one of our medical education team if it is in relation to a registrar. We have recently developed some clear guidelines for supervisors requiring additional assistance which will be published shortly so do keep an eye out for that. Don't forget that your college membership may also provide free mental health services and GPSA has some excellent resources.

As the term is drawing to a close, now is a great time to directly observe your registrar and complete a competency assessment on GPRime. This can be done as one of your last teaching sessions for the term. Perhaps you can impart one last 'top tip' or 'clinical pearl' with your registrar to take with them into the next term.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Supervisor Development Day on 16 June. The program is full of great workshops and panel presentations and I am looking forward to learning a few things myself!

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



Important reminders: Term placement and Medicare provider numbers

2018.2 term dates:

- 6 Aug 2018 – 3 Feb 2019

Deadline for 2018.2 Medicare paperwork:

- The deadline to submit an application for Medicare provider numbers for the 2018.2 term is Friday 22 June. All Medicare initial provider number applications and other Medicare paperwork need to be sent directly to Medicare (not GP Synergy).

Medicare provider number check:

- Once your registrar/s has received their Medicare provider number, they must check the letter to confirm they have been issued with a provider number with full billing rights before they commence billing patients. Registrars with refer and request rights will only be able to refer patients and request investigations, until a provider number with full billing rights is received.

Medical Educator with a Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) update: Keeping up with competency assessments



Supervisors I talk to love sharing their knowledge and experience with teaching, supervising and mentoring registrars through their general practice training journey. Observing your registrar developing confidence and competence over time can be a really fulfilling experience as a supervisor.

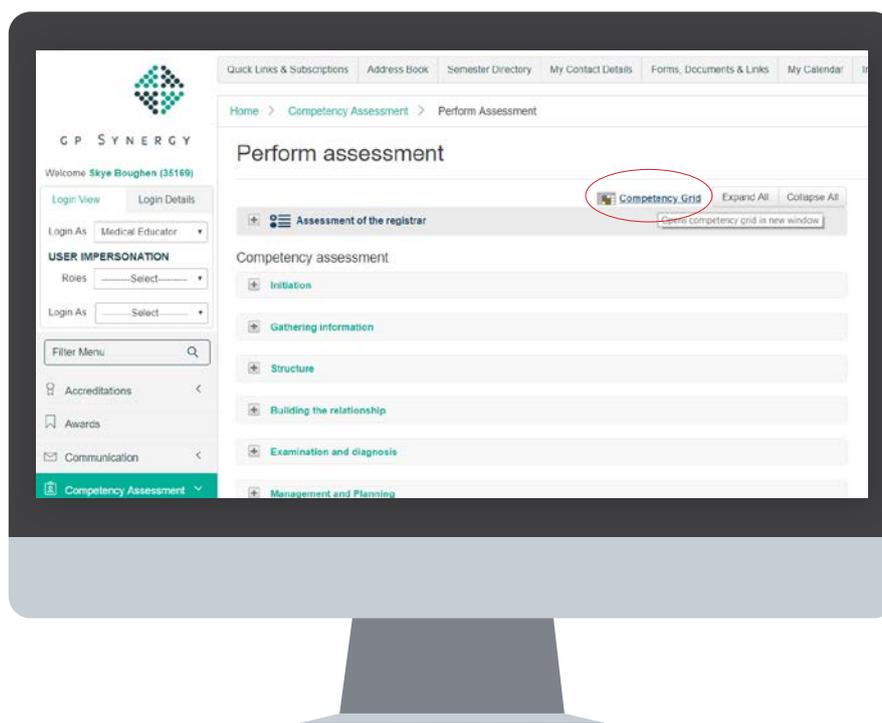
There are set times for supervisors to complete formal Competency Assessments (CAs) on their registrars during training - Registrars in their first or second GP term: 3 per term, Registrars in their third GP term or Extended Skills in GP: 2 per term. Often it's a challenge to keep up to date with that paperwork. Completing the CA in a timely manner assists you to plan your ongoing supervision and training, and means the registrar has a written account to reflect on their progress and guide future learning.

I find it helpful to plan out these assessments during the first week of term. I block times in my appointment schedule to sit in with my registrar while they consult in the week or two before each CA is due. This way, the registrar knows what to expect and I find it easy to keep on top of the assessments. For registrars in their first or second GP term, direct observation followed by feedback can count towards formal teaching time for that week.

Some supervisors find using an assessment tool or template helpful to ensure a wide range of consultation competencies are observed and discussed. The DOTS (Direct Observation Teaching Session) form (in the [supervisor toolkit](#) on GPRime) and [ACRRM's miniCEX rubric](#) are both useful tools.

Personally, I open the competency assessment that is due on GPRime. Click the 'Competency Grid' link at the top right of the assessment to see what's expected for the stage of training, and review how they performed in previous assessments. I print this grid (press CTRL+P) so I can make notes next to each item. This makes completing the assessment online straightforward.

Dr Skye Boughen | Medical Educator with Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) | Western NSW



Upcoming changes to completion timing requirements for competency assessments

From the 2018.2 term, there will be a limit on how long you can access a competency to complete it. There may also be accreditation and payment implications for competency assessments not completed.

Further information will be circulated to supervisors and practice managers in the coming weeks.

Supervisor educational professional development in full swing



As we move towards the middle of the year we have already held 15 face to face workshops across our regions including in some new locations such as Goulburn and Cronulla, as well as eight webinars. Don't forget you can access all past webinars on GPRime under 'Forms, Documents and Links' – just search 'webinar'.

We are looking forward to seeing many more of you at scheduled events being held later in the year (see the calendar attached at the back of this update) and we are delighted that just under 300 supervisors will be joining us at the combined supervisor workshop in Sydney in June, and over 130 supervisors at GPTEC in September.

NSW RDN scholarships for rural health professionals

Scholarship applications are now open to support training and professional development for rural or remote medical, dental, nursing, midwifery, allied health or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals.

- **Scholarships:** A payment up to \$10,000 per year, for up to two years, for further studies or training
- **Bursaries:** A payment up to \$10,000 (maximum of \$10,000 in total in one year) for professional development and upskilling course fees and associated accommodation and travel expenses.

For more information see [Health Workforce Scholarship Program \(HWSP\)](#)

Key dates

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2018.2 term.

16 July: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP.

5 Aug: End date term 1 2018.

For a list of important training dates, see the [key dates calendar](#) on our website.



We wish GP Supervisor, Dr Francis Antonio all the best



After many years as a rural GP and teaching GP registrars, 2017 GP Synergy South Eastern NSW Supervisor of the Year, Dr Francis Antonio, has decided to retire.

Read more about Dr Antonio's journey in [local paper, the South Coast Register](#).

Heading off on holidays? Don't forget your leave form



If you are heading off on leave, and there are no other supervisors available in the practice during your absence, you need to complete a [Supervisor Arrangements During Leave Form](#). This is to ensure registrars are supported and safe.

To access the form: Login to GPRime, click on 'Forms, Documents and Links' and search 'leave'.

GP Synergy medical student scholarship student research published

Each year GP Synergy offers scholarship places for medical students to explore general practice and general practice research.

Jasmine De Giovanni, a 2017 scholarship recipient, has had her scholarship-funded study published in *Menopause – The Journal of the North American Menopause Society*.

Congratulations Jasmine!

Rural networking events

Over the past few weeks we have hosted a number of rural networking events for registrars across NSW with many more to come. The events provide an opportunity for registrars and their partners to connect and build relationships with other health professionals, stakeholders, and community members in their rural region.

So far this year, events have been held in Moree, Broken Hill, Nowra, Goulburn, Wagga Wagga and Tamworth. See our list of upcoming events (right). Invitations will be circulated to registrars, supervisors, practice managers and stakeholders closer to the event.

Rural Support Officer reminder

If you are going to have a new registrar next term and they are relocating to join your practice, don't forget that we have Rural Support Officers (RSOs) that can work with you and your practice to help them settle in.

The RSOs can help registrars and their families get settled into a new town and form important social and professional networks. They also provide ongoing pastoral support for registrars in rural placements. Please see the last page for RSO contact details.

Upcoming events

- Dubbo: 26 June
- Bathurst: 14 Aug
- Mudgee: 21 Aug
- Batemans Bay: 21 Aug
- Bega: 22 Aug
- Cooma: 23 Aug
- Port Macquarie: 28 Aug
- Inverell: 4 Sept
- Orange: 18 Sept
- Griffith: 20 Sept
- Armidale: 25 Sept
- Taree: 9 Oct
- Ballina: 18 Oct



Aboriginal health training for registrars

It's been a busy few months for GP Synergy's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Education Unit and the medical education team who have been running education sessions for registrars across the state and territory.

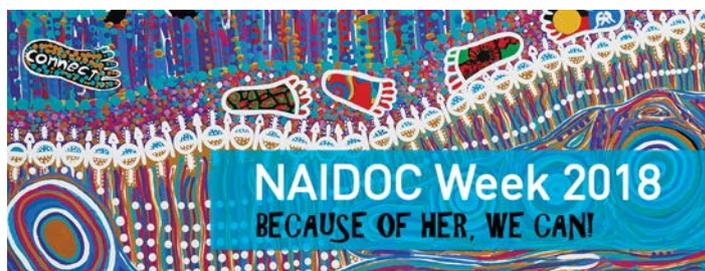
A compulsory part of a registrar's education program, the workshops featured a range of presenters from the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. In Wagga Wagga, this included students from The Clontarf Foundation which seeks to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men pictured below.



National Reconciliation Week

As part of National Reconciliation Week, GP Synergy was honoured to be joined by members of the Stolen Generation who shared their personal experiences with us over a National Sorry Day morning tea. Each of GP Synergy's ten offices joined in to listen to their stories either in person or by video-conference. We sincerely thank our special guests for sharing such personal and emotional stories with us.

NAIDOC Week: 8-15 July



This year's National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week theme - 'Because of her we can!' – celebrates the invaluable past and ongoing contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women make to the community.

NAIDOC Week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To find out how you can participate in NAIDOC Week, visit the [NAIDOC website](#).

Are you looking for more information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, history, culture or training opportunities?



GP Synergy's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health website is a great one-stop-shop for anyone looking for:

- resources to help them learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture
- useful clinical resources
- lists of training post opportunities
- and more!

To visit the site head to: <https://aboriginalhealth.gpsynergy.com.au/>

Save the date! Practice manager workshops near you

We are excited to have confirmed the dates for a number of practice manager workshops across our subregions.

Invitations will be circulated in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to contact your local PLSO if you have any queries in the interim.

Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney | Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

- Friday 17 August - Sydney

Hunter New England and Central Coast

- Wednesday 22 August - Newcastle
- Thursday 30 August - Armidale

Murrumbidgee and ACT

- Thursday 20 September - Griffith
- Thursday 27 September - Canberra
- Thursday 11 October - Wagga

North Coast

- Thursday 26 July - Ballina
- Tuesday 28 August - Port Macquarie
- Thursday 25 October - Coffs Harbour

South Eastern

- Wednesday 15 August - Kiama
- Tuesday 21 August - Batemans Bay
- Wednesday 22 August - Bega
- Thursday 23 August - Cooma

Western NSW

- Friday 24 August - Dubbo
- Friday 31 August - Orange
- Tuesday 23 October - Broken Hill

External activities of interest

- ACCRM - Mental Health Disorders Training for Rural Practitioners (MHST) | Online virtual classroom providing participants with a good overview of the most common mental health concerns such as depression, anxiety, and somatisation disorder. | [More information](#) for dates.
- St John of God Richmond Hospital - Psychiatric Pharmacology, navigating the maze | 27 June | Castle Hill | [More information](#)
- ACRRM Rural Emergency Skills Training | 7-8 July | Coffs Harbour | [More information](#)
- ACRRM Advanced Life Support Training | 14 July | Newcastle | [More information](#)
- ACRRM Rural Emergency Obstetrics Training | 15 July | Newcastle | [More information](#)

Need some help?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Alyce Piggott - 02 8321 4060
alyce_piggott@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
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- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Emie Roy - 02 8321 4068
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- **New England/Northwest:**
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- **North Coast:**
Rhonda O'Dell - 02 8321 4126
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- **Western NSW:**
Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
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- **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 and ACT:**
Dr Ken Mackey - ken_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Dr Aline Smith - aline_smith@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast**
Dr Ian Charlton - ian_charlton@gpsynergy.com.au

Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**
Kerry Robins - kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Maria Logan - maria_logan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
Sue Hefren - sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
April McFadden - april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au