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NGPSA

National General Practice
Supervisors' Association

Submission to Inquiry into Registration Processes and Support for Overseas Trained Doctors

NGPSA represents GP supervisors of Registrars undertaking post graduate training in General Medical Practice - for both the RACGP and ACCRM..

Our members are also involved in training prevocational post graduate doctors and undergraduates.

NGPSA members are located in both metropolitan and country practices.

The majority of overseas doctors are in rural practice, with lesser numbers in metropolitan "areas of need."

Only a minority of OTD's are involved in the RACGP or ACCRM training schemes as registrars.

OTD training is not well organised, unlike the GPET sponsored training schemes for GP registrars through the Regional Training Providers. Very little funding is available for their training, and there is no overall standard as there is for GP registrars.

Many OTD's work in rural towns where there is limited opportunity to participate in training.

All NGPSA Supervisors undertake ongoing training in teaching through their involvement with their RTP's. Their Practices are accredited as teaching practices by either the RACGP and/or ACCRM.

OTD's have a much lower pass rate at RACGP and ACCRM exams than GP Registrars who have been trained by the RTP's and accredited training practices with recognised supervisors.

Providing OTDs with a similar style and level of post graduate training as provided to GP Registrars would improve their success in RACGP, ACCRM or Part II of AMC exams. This would be best achieved by funding RTP's to provide this training. It would need similar funding levels to the RTP's for administration, for practice releases, for practice teaching subsidies, etc. The Practices that currently employ OTD's would need to be recruited as training practices under the auspices of local RTP's, and be involved in their ongoing training.

Pre-Exam courses are an important part of the RTP's programs, and are especially important for OTD's who are often not accustomed to Australian style exams - the written multi-choice exams or the clinical exams. Where it can be seen that an OTD has a reasonable chance of passing the examination, all useful steps to support them should be taken, particularly with language skills. However, in those cases where a candidate has so many areas of weakness, it would seem to be sensible to offer counselling and some alternate options.

Alternative pathways to the RACGP exam have been a useful route for some OTD's.

The other major area of need for OTD's is for English as a Second Language training. Most RTP's have capacity in this area, especially many of the rural RTP's, who have a greater number of OTD's as registrars.

Dr John Emery Chair NGPSA

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