



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 5 February 2018

Growing our rural and regional GPs in 2018

Photo and interview opportunities are available*

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| Orientation Venue: | Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway, Ryley St | Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre, Main Rd | Yarra Valley Lodge Heritage Ave Chirnside Park | Lady Bay Resort Pertobe Rd Warrnambool |
| Date: | February 6 & 7 | February 7, 8, 9 | February 7 & 8 | February 8 & 9 |

Demand for General Practice (GP) training continues to grow with 150 registrars attending [Murray City Country Coast \(MCCC\) GP Training's](#) orientation this week, across Central, North-West, North-East and South-West Victoria and the Northern and Western Melbourne metropolitan areas.

MCCC is a regional training organisation, delivering and managing training towards fellowship of either [The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#) or the [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#), or both.

MCCC chief executive officer, Greg McMeel, said that after orientation the registrars will start their training in a general practice setting in a rural, regional or Melbourne-based community.

“Our registrars learn to practice in real life situations, under the experienced eye of accredited supervisors, other practice staff and MCCC medical educators, who adopt roles as teacher, mentor and advisor to this talented group of doctors in specialist training.

“Over a period of three to four years, depending on the college curriculum and the registrar’s involvement in additional procedural and special skills training; comprehensive, one-on-one teaching, supervision, feedback and advice will be given to our ‘apprentice’ GPs. This will prepare them to practice in the future in their chosen community. At the end of this time, they will be fully qualified or fellowed,” he said.

Registrars have already completed five or six years of medical school and two years of pre-vocational training in a hospital setting, during which time they choose a specialty. GP training is proving increasingly popular for the variety of skills needed to practice this challenging specialty, particularly in a rural environment where a doctor will not only operate independently in practice - they may also perform specialist skills such as emergency medicine, obstetrics, anaesthetics, mental health, dermatology and much more, at their local hospital or clinic.

“We are pleased that all available places for training have been taken up this year, as has been the case since our organisation began in January, 2016. This gives us great confidence that we will continue to expand on and deliver outstanding education to these GPs of the future”. Mr McMeel said.

Background:

We, at MCCC, offer specialist training for qualified doctors who want a career in general practice medicine. Established in January 2016, we are one of nine regional training organisations in Australia and two in Victoria that offer the federally-funded [Australian General Practice Training Program](#).

The AGPT is based on an apprenticeship model where the majority of GP training is conducted within GP clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services or approved hospitals, with additional peer learning workshops developed and delivered by MCCC and the other eight regional training organisations.

Doctors who join GP training in our region develop their specialist skills and knowledge through supervised work placements in hospitals and accredited GP teaching practices that service the health needs of metropolitan, regional and remote communities across Victoria.

Doctors who train with MCCC can pursue [Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#) and/or [Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#).

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