

**Re: Proposed registration standard for granting general registration as a medical practitioner to Australian and New Zealand medical graduates on completion of intern training**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed registration standard.

Adelaide to Outback General Practice Training (AOGP) manage and deliver a number of intern training positions through the Prevocational General Practice Placement Program (PGPPP), in a tripartite collaboration with AOGP training practices and identified tertiary feeder hospitals.

AOGP, as a key stakeholder and provider of intern education and training, affirms the importance of a robust registration standard. Internship has been defined as:

*A period of mandatory supervised general clinical experience, allowing medical graduates to consolidate and apply clinical knowledge and skills while taking increasing responsibility for the provision of safe, high quality patient care. Diagnostic skills, communication skills, management skills, including therapeutic and procedural skills, and professionalism are developed under appropriate supervision. Internship also informs career choices for many graduates by providing experience in different medical specialties including general practice, and providing a grounding for subsequent vocational (specialist) training.*

It is widely recognised that a small proportion of health care occurs in the tertiary setting. We applaud the recognition that it is valuable for interns to be exposed to a range of clinical experiences in varied environments - including the community setting of General Practice. AOGP particularly welcomes the inclusion of general practice in the draft registration standard both against 'emergency medicine' and 'other approved positions'. We confirm that the identified emergency medical care skills may be gained from specific terms in general practice with exposure to emergency medicine.

However we would like to further add that all general practice terms allow for the intern to gain an increased breadth and depth of clinical exposure and development of communication, diagnostic, management skills, including therapeutic and procedural skills (from an in-patient, out-patient and community perspective, depending on location and scope of practice); and professionalism, under appropriate and constant supervision.

In order to meet the requirements of the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors, we are of the strong belief that the experience gained in a general practice term makes up a critical component of the 'medicine' experience that is required during this mandatory general clinical experience required to gain general registration. Junior Doctors have been vocal in their recommendation for a general practice term to be included as a mandatory requirement for all interns. We are therefore strongly advocating for a variation to the registration standard so that it incorporates this recommendation. This would ensure all interns are exposed to the complete spectrum of the 'medicine' experience by the inclusion of such a term as defined below:

*This term must provide experience under supervision in the assessment and management of patients with undifferentiated illnesses, caring for patients who have a broad range of medical conditions and opportunities for the intern to participate in the assessment of patients with acute and non-acute medical problems; the management of patients with a range of general medical conditions; referral planning, including preparation of referral documentation and other components of temporary handover to tertiary care or shared handover to another private specialist practitioner, or a subacute or long term care facility, and ambulatory care.*

AOGP would be very willing to contribute to the development of guidelines to assess the suitability of posts to complete such terms, in both urban and rural settings.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Black  
Chief Executive Officer