



# Training Update



## Director of Supervisor Education update

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Director of Supervisor Education (DoSE) at GP Synergy. After 25 years in general practice, with many of those years as a supervisor, I am enjoying the new challenge that this role brings. It is my aim to continue building on the significant foundations laid by Tess van Duuren in her time in this role and my sincere thanks go to her for all her hard work.

Now that we are a few weeks into the term, I hope that you are all settling into the rhythm of teaching and learning with your GP registrars. GP Synergy has many longstanding supervisors who have transitioned through the various changes in GP training in recent years - thank you for your ongoing commitment to training GP registrars. Let me also welcome new supervisors to GP Synergy as you embark on an interesting and valuable journey as a supervisor.

There are several great supervisor professional development activities remaining in 2017 and I hope you will take the opportunity to attend one or more of these activities. The focus in the second half of 2017 is on facilitating clinical learning, an important area of GP registrar teaching. These sessions are being delivered regionally and are listed in the calendar which can be accessed through the [GP Synergy website](#). On the calendar you will also find details of the remaining webinars for the year. The popularity of these webinars continues to grow, reflecting an ongoing need for varied types of educational delivery.

It was wonderful to see so many GP Synergy supervisors at the supervisor development day on 18 August. It was a packed program attended by over 260 supervisors and I am currently reading through the evaluation from the day. It is fantastic to read the many detailed comments about what worked well and what could be improved.

Planning for the supervisor education program in 2018 is well underway and your evaluations are an essential part of that process. Evaluations are reviewed and analysed by the DoSE, as well as the regional heads of education in conjunction with the medical educators with supervisor portfolio in each region. The Committee Overseeing Supervisor Education (COSE) meets four times a year and provides further input to the supervisor education program based on the committee's assessment of your evaluations. Each region is represented on COSE which comprises GP supervisors, a Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) and medical educators with supervisor portfolio. Your feedback helps to shape our future plans for supervisor education and assists us to deliver a program relevant to supervisor needs.

GP Synergy is aiming to elicit your feedback in a timely fashion following supervisor education events and let me encourage you all to take the time to tell us what you think. This will assist us in our goal to provide effective and meaningful Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to add value to your existing teaching skills.

### Dr Sarah Gani

Director of Supervisor Education



Are you seeking a GP registrar in the first half of 2018?

Don't forget to update your training vacancies by 3 October 2017.

**See inside for more details.**

# Important information for practices seeking registrars in the first half of 2018

If you are seeking a registrar in the first half of 2018 (the 2018.1 term) you will need to advise your 'training capacity' and update your 'practice profile' between 11 September – 3 October 2017, in GPRime2.

## Term placement dates



**11 Sept - 3 Oct 2017:** Update your 2018.1 training vacancies in GPRime2.

- If your profile is not updated by this date you may not be able to advertise placements to registrars for the 2018.1 term.
- Should a practice wish to update its training capacity after 3 October 2017, this will be subject to review by the regional head of education.

**3 - 17 Oct 2017:** Practice and supervisor cap review

- GP Synergy will review the available capacity in your subregion based on the information updated from practices and registrar re-enrolment.
- Following this review, GP Synergy may apply a cap on the number of registrars per practice or per supervisor to ensure equitable distribution across the subregion.
- Due to fluctuations in practice capacity and registrar numbers, this cap may vary from term to term.

**18 Oct 2017:** Practices notified of practice caps

**Midday 23 Oct 2017:** Registrars will be able to apply to practices within their assigned grouping

## Important points to note:

- Registrars who train 28 hours = 0.5 in cap and registrars who train between 28.1 hours and 38 hours = 1 in cap.
- Registrars who will be in an Extension Awaiting Fellowship (EAF) term will be included in the cap.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility. In doing so, registrars must ensure they are able to meet their training location requirements for their subregion and any college requirements which may apply to them. (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- How you select registrars to train in your practice is up to you. It is not a mandatory requirement to interview all of the registrars who apply to your practice.
- Applications for placements must be made through GPRime2. Placements will only be confirmed when GP Synergy receives co-signed copies of term placement paperwork through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation will be accepted.

## Useful resources:

There are a number of useful resources available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Practices](#)'.

This includes:

- Overview of Term Placement for Supervisors and Practices
- Term Placement FAQs for Supervisors and Practices
- Practice Caps Explained: Video by CEO John Oldfield
- Term placement GPRime2 instructional videos



## Webinars for practice staff and supervisors new to term placement

PLSOs will be holding several practical webinars to help new practice staff and supervisors:

1. understand how term placement works
2. learn how to update their training capacity in GPRime2
3. understand the importance of the 'practice profile' in GPRime2 and best practice examples
4. discuss selection techniques for selecting registrars
5. discuss contracts and registrar negotiation.

A recording of the webinar will be available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called 'Term Placement Information for Practices'.

### Webinar dates and how to register:

- Tuesday 12 September: 7.00am - 8.00am | [Link to join](#)
- Wednesday 13 September: 12.30pm-1.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Thursday 14 September: 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)

## New guidelines for ACCHS training facilities seeking to train registrars in their first GP term.

GP Synergy has released new guidelines for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) who would like to train registrars in their first GP term.

In addition to holding accreditation in accordance with the GP Synergy Training Facility and GP Supervisor Accreditation Policy, ACCHSs that wish to train registrars at a GPT1 level must obtain a "GPT1 Endorsement (Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service)" to their existing certificate of accreditation.

GPT1 level registrars' suitability will be identified during the re-enrolment with their respective medical educator on an 'exceptions' basis. In instances where a registrar is deemed unsuitable, GP Synergy reserves the right to prevent the placement from occurring.

Placements for registrars in the second GP term and above can participate through the usual term placement application process.

### Key dates

**11 Sept - 3 Oct:** Practices to update their training placement capacity for the first term of 2018 (2018.1).

**25 Sept\*:** Week 8 competency assessment due for registrars in first or second GP terms

**18 Oct:** Practices notified of training placement caps.

**23 Oct:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

\*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.



## Collaborative partnership with PHNs creates new training opportunities - HealthPathways

HealthPathways is a regionally specific online resource that helps GPs determine the optimal pathway of care specific to their patient's needs.

Through a collaborative agreement with the Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across our training regions, GP Synergy GP registrars now have the opportunity to undertake an accredited extended skills training post in the HealthPathways program as clinical editors.

Employed by GP Synergy as Registrar Medical Educators (RegMEs), registrars are seconded to the PHN for a 0.2FTE role and work with the PHN and health professionals behind the scenes to identify and develop pathways.

Registrars interested in being involved should contact their local education coordinator.

## Taking time off? No other supervisors in the practice available? Don't forget to complete a supervisor leave form.



If you are taking a well-earned break, don't forget - **if there are no other supervisors available in the practice during your absence you need to complete a [supervisor leave form](#).**

This is to ensure registrars are supported and safe.

### How to notify GP Synergy when all supervisors are on leave at the same time:

1. Outline the alternative supervision arrangements that will be in place by completing the Supervisor Leave Form available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' and submitting it to GP Synergy in advance of the leave taking place.
2. The arrangements will then be reviewed by the respective Regional Head of Education or delegate.

### Options for alternate supervision arrangements include:

1. Onsite supervision - this can be arranged with another GP of the practice, who agrees to supervise the registrar for the required period and is briefed with regards to the registrar's competency and progress. If the alternative onsite supervision does not meet the minimum supervision requirements for the stage of registrar (e.g. 80% onsite for GPT1, 50% for GPT2 and 25% for GPT3 and above) a remote supervisor will also need to be organised.
2. Remote supervision - this can be arranged through another GP Synergy accredited GP supervisor. Please indicate the full name and a written indication (via email is sufficient) of their accepting this responsibility for the required timeframe. Please note - the remote supervisor must agree to provide 100% offsite supervision to the registrar.

Please contact your PLSO if you have any queries.

## Supervisor and practice manager survey thank you

A big thanks to all the supervisors and practice staff that completed the recently distributed annual survey. Results are currently being analysed by an independent consultant and we will report back key findings shortly.

# ReCEnT (Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training)

The Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT) project is a flagship general practice (GP) education and training project.

The ReCEnT project is the first of its kind to document Australian GP registrars' educational and clinical experience over time by measuring:

- what registrars do, the types of patients and conditions they see and the management they provide
- how registrars' practice changes during their training.

ReCEnT is an important tool to aid reflection on practice. Reflection can be facilitated by a registrar comparing their data with that of other registrars, with that of established GPs, as well as with the registrar's results in previous terms. Critical evaluation is encouraged – was this a typical week? Are the results unexpected? Am I different from other registrars? If so, why might that be? Am I getting an adequate range of clinical presentations for optimal learning (and exam preparation)? Do I need to reconsider any aspect of my practice?

## How does ReCEnT work?

The project requires GP registrars to:

- complete encounter forms, recording details of 60 consecutive consultations, in each of their GP training terms. These take around 1-2 minutes to complete per form (i.e. up to 2 hours in total each term)
- repeat the process in each of their three GP training terms.

GP registrars are provided with a feedback report that compares their consultations to the larger group of registrars and, in some cases, national GP data. Registrars are strongly advised to share this information with their supervisors. If registrars provide consent, a copy of their report will be sent directly to supervisors.

When a training practice has had at least five registrars participate in ReCEnT, the supervisor will receive an Annual Practice Report.

The practice report enables supervisors to see the practices registrars' clinical exposure as well as aspects of their clinical and education practice. The report also provides a comparison with other training practices. Up to five registrars per practice report are used so that individual registrars are un-identifiable in the report.

## Which subregions are participating in ReCEnT in 2017.2?

ReCEnT is being rolled out in stages across GP Synergy's training regions.

In 2017.2, registrars in GP terms in the following subregions will be participating:

- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast (HMCC)
- New England/North West (NE/NW)
- Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney (NWNS)
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney (CESWS)

## 2017.2 ReCEnT timetable

	HMCC	NE/NW	NWNS*	CESWS*
Term 1: ReCEnT Orientation	1st Sept (workshop)	11th Sept (workshop)	20th Sept (workshop)	13th Sept (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Distribution of encounter forms	19th Oct (workshop)	11th Sept (workshop)	20th Sept (workshop)	13th Sept (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Collection of encounter forms	16th Nov (workshop)	9th Oct (by mail)	17th Oct (workshop)	17th Oct (workshop)
GPT3 and PRRT3: Distribution of encounter forms	15th Sept (by mail)	12th Sept (by mail)	n/a	n/a
GPT3 and PRRT3: Collection of encounter forms	13th Oct (by mail)	10th Oct (by mail)	n/a	n/a

\*only GPT1 and GPT2's are participating

Remaining GP Synergy subregions will be joining the program in 2018.

If you have any questions about receiving or handing back your ReCEnT packs, please contact Katie Mulquiney on 02 8321 4242 or by email, [Katie\\_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au).

If you have any questions about the overall project, please contact Parker Magin on 02 8321 4540 or by email, [Parker\\_Magin@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:Parker_Magin@gpsynergy.com.au).

# GPTEC and GP Supervisor Combined PD Day

August was a bumper month for supervisor professional development with over 260 supervisors from across NSW and ACT attending the combined supervisor PD day and more than 120 supervisors attending the annual General Practice Education and Training Conference (GPTEC).

Both events were held at the new Sydney International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour, and preliminary feedback has been extremely positive.

As this year's host of GPTEC, we were delighted to be able to support such a strong supervisor presence, and deliver 40 sessions at the conference.

For more photos of the events head to:

- GPTEC: [www.gptec2017.com.au](http://www.gptec2017.com.au)
- Supervisor PD day: [www.gpsynergy.com.au](http://www.gpsynergy.com.au)



GP Supervisor PD day



GPTEC 2017



GP Supervisor PD day



GPTEC 2017



GP Supervisor PD day



GPTEC 2017

## GP Synergy awards: Nominations now open!



Do you know someone that deserves to be recognised for their contribution to GP training?

Nominations for GP Synergy's annual awards **are now open and close 5pm Sunday 1 October 2017.**

### Subregion awards

The following awards will be presented for each subregion:

- **Supervisor of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the supervisor within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training
- **Practice Manager of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the practice manager within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training
- **Registrar of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the registrar within each subregion for their outstanding contribution to general practice training
- **GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the GP Synergy employee within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training

### NSW/ACT awards

The following awards will be presented on a NSW/ACT basis:

- **Dr Jeremy Bunker Outstanding Achievement Award:**
  - In honour of GP Synergy's late Director of Training, Dr Jeremy Bunker, this award recognises outstanding achievement in the contribution of general practice education and training.
- **Dr Charlotte Hespe Research Award:**
  - In honour of former Chair, Dr Charlotte Hespe, this award recognises outstanding contributions to general practice research by a GP Synergy registrar.
- **RACGP Registrar of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the registrar that obtained the highest RACGP score within the 2016-2017 financial year.
- **ACRRM Registrar of the Year Award:**
  - Presented to the registrar for their demonstrated commitment to rural and remote general practice.

### How to nominate

For eligibility criteria and to nominate, please login to GPRime2 and select the 'Awards' tab on the left-hand toolbar by **1 October 2017.**

## Wagga registrar farm day

GP registrars in our Murrumbidgee & ACT training subregion got a taste of farm life in Wagga Wagga earlier this month to help understand potential hazards on farms.

It was a great day, and we were joined by Riverina MP, Michael McCormack. Prime 7 and WIN TV also came along to learn more about rural GP training.

We extend our sincere thanks to our hosts, the Dennis family, for sharing their farm and experiences with us, as well as to the registrars who took part.

Head to our facebook page for more videos and photos - <https://www.facebook.com/gpsynergy/>



# Supervisor professional development activities

There is an exciting range of supervisor professional development activities lined up for the second half of the year. A list of all events can be found on the calendar on our [website](#) with invitations sent by email closer to each activity.

## All nodes - events:

- Clinical Teacher Training Workshop | 3 Nov | Sydney – new supervisors only | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)
- Clinical Teacher Training Workshop | Sat 18 Nov | Canberra – new supervisors only | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)

## Webinars:

- SupportGPT tricks of the trade – review of the module and how it works for supervisors | 14 Sept | RSVP – [Claire Doyle](#)
- Topic TBA | 12 Oct | RSVP – [Claire Doyle](#)
- How to support your registrar to prepare for the RACGP exams | 9 Nov | RSVP – [Claire Doyle](#)

Don't forget! All webinar recordings can be accessed via GPrime2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' and search 'webinar'.

## Regional activities:

### Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney

- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 10 Oct | Chippendale | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 26 Oct | Liverpool | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)

### Hunter, Manning and Central Coast

- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 25 Oct | Taree | RSVP – [Jacky Porter](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 1 Nov | Singleton/Muswellbrook | RSVP – [Jacky Porter](#)

### Murrumbidgee and ACT

- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 20 Sept | Canberra | RSVP – [Liline Hewett](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 4 Nov | Wagga Wagga | RSVP – [Claire Doyle](#)

### Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 11 Oct | North Sydney | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 14 Nov | Parramatta | RSVP – [Nicole Tooma](#)

### New England/Northwest

- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 28 Oct | Tamworth | RSVP – [Jacky Porter](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 2 Dec | Inverell | RSVP – [Jacky Porter](#)

### North Coast

- Day 1: Planning for Learning and facilitating clinical reasoning | Day 2: Clinical Teacher Visitor (CTV) training | 16-17 Sept | Coffs Harbour | RSVP – [Fiona Anderson](#)

### South Eastern NSW

- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 1 Nov | Wollongong | RSVP – [Robyn Fanning](#)
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 4 Nov | Bega | RSVP – [Robyn Fanning](#)

### Western NSW

- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 23 Sept | Bathurst | RSVP – [Angie Honeyman](#)

## Upcoming activities of interest

- NSW Health - Back pain workshop | 16 September | Orange | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Advanced Life Support (ALS) | 24 September | Pokolbin | [More information](#)
- MDA National - The How What Where and Why of Medical Documentation | 7 October 2017 | Ultimo | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 7-8 October | Canberra | [More information](#)
- Black Dog - Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention | 21 October | Moree | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 25-26 November | Coffs Harbour | [More information](#)

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

## Oxfam walkers cross the line after 38 hours

100kms, 38 hours, 21 minutes, and several blisters later, Team GP Synergy finished the Oxfam Trailwalker charity trek!

Congratulations to Nigel, Josephine, Isuru and Erick on this huge effort, and for raising over \$4,300 to help those in need.

For more information head to: <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/my/team/26761>



## Need some help?

### Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
  - Lexi Kyle - 02 8321 4084  
[lexi\\_kyle@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:lexi_kyle@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
  - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237  
[lucinda\\_coble@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
  - Emie Roy - 02 8321 4068  
[emie\\_roy@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:emie_roy@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **New England/Northwest:**
  - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237  
[lucinda\\_coble@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **North Coast:**
  - Rhonda O'Dell - 02 8321 4126  
[rhonda\\_odell@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:rhonda_odell@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Western NSW:**
  - Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211  
[kim\\_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:kim_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
  - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145  
[jodie\\_hay@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**
  - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145  
[jodie\\_hay@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au)

### Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO)

- **Western NSW:**  
Dr Ken Hazelton - [ken\\_hazelton@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:ken_hazelton@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
Dr James Boyd - [james\\_boyd@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:james_boyd@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **North Coast:**  
Dr John Vaughan - [john\\_vaughan@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:john_vaughan@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**  
Dr Cecile Dinh - [cecile\\_dinh@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:cecile_dinh@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee:**  
Dr Ken Mackey - [ken\\_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:ken_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au)

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the SLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

#### Positions vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an SLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on [nicky\\_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au)

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following SLO positions:

- Hunter New England Central Coast
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney
- ACT

## Meet the reg: Rural GP registrar, Dr James Connell



*After growing up on a farm at Tocumwal, two and a half hours from Wagga Wagga, Dr James Connell moved away for medical school and hospital training.*

*He has returned to the Murrumbidgee region to complete his GP training.*

#### Why did you decide to become a GP?

I went through medical school on a Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS), so I had a rural GP as a mentor; he made general practice and rural general practice very enticing.

In a nut shell, I wanted to become a GP because of the variability, flexibility and patient-centred focus that general practice offers.

#### What do you enjoy about training and living in Wagga Wagga?

We really enjoy it here. There are lots of activities and sports with good facilities. It's good to get out there, be active and have fun that way.

GP training in Wagga Wagga has been really good, I'm in a practice with very experienced GPs who all have different interests. They're a great bunch of doctors all-round, in general knowledge and procedural medicine.

#### Would you recommend training in a rural area?

Definitely, I think it's a very rewarding experience.

I like the fact that in rural general practice there is the flow-on effects of treating someone and their family members; you're treating the whole family.

Although there are some specialists available, as a rural GP you still do minor procedures yourself; it's more interesting being more hands-on and not just referring people on.

And you really do get that chance to develop relationships with the community. You're not a random face, you constantly run into people that are your patients. It feels quite special to be part of the community like that.