



# Training Update



## CEO update

2017 has commenced with a flying start, with a number of important initiatives well underway.

### **Bi-college accreditation without conditions**

I am pleased to report we have successfully obtained bi-college accreditation without conditions from ACRRM until 31 December 2020, and the RACGP until 30 June 2019. Thank you to the many staff, supervisors, registrars and stakeholders who took part in this comprehensive process.

### **GPRime2 improvements are progressing**

To improve the user experience for all GPRime2 users, and in preparation for the next iteration of the system, a number of important GPRime2 improvements have been deployed and further releases are in development.

Our focus is on ensuring improved useability for all stakeholders. As part of this process we have established several focus groups to help with testing and provide ongoing feedback which informs system improvements.

### **Implementation of cultural safety kits across NSW/ACT**

As part of our strategic work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) across NSW and the ACT, we are committed to rolling out the Cultural Resource Kits which were developed between 2013-2015 by the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AHMRC) under commission by the former Regional Training Providers (RTPs).

These kits are aimed at providing properly tailored and effective cultural orientation to health workers and staff at Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Under the direction of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Education Unit, a body of work is underway to prepare services and upskill cultural health mentors to tailor and implement the kits at the local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS).

The aim is to deliver tailored cultural orientation and training to GP registrars, supervisors, health workers and other staff within the service. A technical committee has been formed and piloting is underway with a number of participating sites.

### **GP Synergy's informatics system user testing complete**

In 2015, GP Synergy commenced development on a geospatial informatics system to integrate general practice workforce data, demographics, population health, and general practice training to inform workforce planning and the formal education program.

Our vision is to make this system freely available to other health organisations in our sector who share the common goal of health workforce planning and distribution.

We have completed our first round of use-case and user acceptance testing and there are significant system developments to be released during March 2017. We are on track for the system to be made accessible to key health organisations in the coming months.

### **Regional team growth**

The GP Synergy team continues to grow with a number of new staff joining our expanding regional teams. Across our ten offices, we now have over 200 staff, including 94 medical education staff and 94 administrative staff, in addition to a team of casual research assistants.

If you require any assistance please don't hesitate to contact us at any time.

**John Oldfield** | CEO



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# Important information for practices seeking registrars in the second half of 2017

## 2017.2 term placement

If you are seeking a registrar in the second half of 2017 (2017.2 term), to promote your practice placement to registrars, **you will need to advise your 'training capacity' and update your 'practice profile' between 13 March – 3 April 2017, in GPRime2.**

### Important dates:

- **13 March - 3 April:** If you do not update your 2017.2 training vacancies by 3 April 2017, you may not be able to advertise placements to registrars for the 2017.2 term.
- **19 April 2017:** GP Synergy will review the available capacity in your subregion and may apply a cap on the number of registrars per practice or per supervisor to ensure equitable distribution across the subregion. You will be advised of the outcomes of this review and any subsequent caps on capacity applied in your subregion on 19 April 2017. The application of these caps may affect the number of registrars your practice is able to employ.
- **Midday 24 April:** Registrars can apply to practices within their assigned grouping.

### Other 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 EAF term will be included in the cap.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility if they can meet their subregion training location requirements and college requirements (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- The method used to select registrars is up to the practice.
- Applications for placements must be made through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation will be accepted.

### For assistance:

Please don't hesitate to contact your local Practice Liaison and Support Coordinator if you require any assistance at any time.

## Useful term placement resources

### GPRime2 – Forms, Document and Links

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
- Term placement flowchart
- Grouping maps
- Term placement GPRime2 instructional videos

### Webinars for supervisors and training facility staff:

We will be holding several practical webinars to help practices:

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

All sessions will be recorded and made available on GPRime2 after the webinar. To participate, simply click on the link 15 minutes before the scheduled time:

- Tuesday 14 March: 7.00am-8.00am | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/361590925>
- Wednesday 15 March: 12.30pm-1.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/962390732>
- Thursday 16 March: 6.30pm-7.30pm | Link to join: <https://gpsynergy.zoom.us/j/184283933>

Please note: Supervisor attendance stipends do not apply to these webinars.



# Reminder: Supervisor professional development activities are now paid



In 2017, supervisors will be paid for their attendance at the majority of GP Synergy delivered professional development activities.

## How much are supervisors paid?

In most cases, supervisor attendance is paid at \$140.34 per hour. This will be confirmed in invitations to professional development activities.

GP Synergy also subsidises supervisor's reasonable travel costs. This includes paying mileage incurred over 60km one way at the current ATO rate. Flights may also be reimbursed, however these require prior approval unless otherwise specified in the invitation.

In recognition that some supervisors may reside considerable distance from the location of activities being held in their subregion, accommodation may also be provided and will be specified in invitations.

## What do supervisors need to do to receive stipend and/or travel payments?

To be eligible to receive the attendance stipend and/or travel reimbursements, supervisors must:

1. Sign in/out at each activity. In the case of PD webinars, supervisors must provide their name and email on registration.
2. Complete the post-activity evaluation within the specified timeframe.

## When will supervisors be paid?

- Within three weeks of the supervisor activity date, eligible supervisors will be sent a purchase requisition by GP Synergy's accounts team.
- Supervisors are required to send back an invoice to GP Synergy for payment with the stipend amount specified, as well as any travel claims for review and reimbursement.

If you have any queries about your professional development attendance or payments, please contact your Practice Liaison and Support Officer.

## Upcoming supervisor activities

### Subregion supervisor workshops | Throughout year

Subregion workshops are in full-swing across our eight subregions. For a complete list of what's happening in your subregion, please see the calendar attached.

Generally, participation in GP Synergy delivered subregion workshops attract a stipend. Travel and accommodation (where required) will also be provided as per GP Synergy's guidelines.

### Webinars | Throughout year

So far this year we have held seven supervisor webinars on topics such as using SupportGPT, getting ready for the new training term, an ACCRRM training update and teaching multimorbidity.

Recordings of webinars are loaded onto GPRime2 within two business days of the webinar being held. Head to 'Forms, Documents and Links' in the top toolbar of GPRime2 and simply search 'webinar' for a full list of past webinars.

For a list of upcoming webinars, see the attached calendar.

### General Practice Education and Training (GPTE) Conference | 16-17 August 2017

Planning for the annual GPTE Conference at the new Sydney International Convention Centre is in well underway. Held over two days (16-17 August), with the welcome function on the evening of Tuesday 15 August, GP Synergy will be offering a large number of subsidised supervisor places.

Travel and accommodation (where required) will be provided as per GP Synergy's guidelines.

An EOI will be sent to all supervisors in early April.

### GP Synergy Combined Supervisor Day – Sydney | 18 August 2017

Immediately following the GPTE Conference, on Friday 18 August GP Synergy will be hosting a full-day supervisor professional development workshop at the Sydney International Convention Centre. Featuring four consecutive streams, this jam-packed day offers something for every supervisor.

Participation in this activity attracts a stipend. Travel and accommodation (where required) will also be provided as per GP Synergy's guidelines.

An EOI for this event will be sent to all supervisors with the GPTE Conference EOI by early April.



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# National Close the Gap Day – 16 March 2017



Closing the Gap is a government strategy that aims to reduce disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, and access to early childhood education, educational achievement, and employment outcomes.

The Close the Gap campaign is the 'public face' of the National Indigenous Health Equality - a public awareness campaign that was formally launched April 2007 in Sydney.

Local initiatives as indicated in the Prime Minister Closing the Gap report 2017 have shown to be the most effective way to achieve change but also highlights the significant disparities that still exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Close the Gap Day aims to bring together government, people and organisations to share information and take meaning action to achieve Indigenous health equality and outcomes by 2030.

## Workshops to welcome and support registrars entering a new term

The first week of February saw more than 850 registrars across NSW and ACT enter a GP community placement.

As part of their mandatory education program, registrars entering their first or second GP term attended a GP Synergy education workshop run by their regional education team in Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Newcastle, Sydney, Tamworth, and Wollongong.

Each workshop featured a 'foundation' training day to upskill registrars entering a GP term for the first term in the areas of emergencies in general practice, dermatology basics and managing general practice consultations.

Other topics included a combination of 'core' topics (topics delivered by all regions that align with national priority areas) and 'regional' topics (topics chosen at the discretion of the regional medical education team to reflect local population health needs).



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# Policy updates

In response to the Department of Health 2017 AGPT policy changes, the following GP Synergy policies have been updated to the new AGPT links. A short summary of these national policy changes are outlined below.

Please note: Additional AGPT policies may have changed that are not listed below. Please ensure you visit the [AGPT policy page](#) for a full list of all current AGPT policies.

## Training Facility and General Practice Supervisor Accreditation Policy

- Addition: Accreditation application exclusion period added for practices that are de-accredited.

## Registrar requiring additional assistance policy

- Embedded reference link changed to new 2017 AGPT Remediation Policy - <http://www.agpt.com.au/About-Us/Policies/AGPT-Policies-in-effect-1-January-2017>

## Academic Post Policy

- Major changes:
  - This policy has been amended to reflect the transition of the administration and management of Academic Posts to RACGP and ACRRM.

## Extension of Training Time Policy 2017

- Major changes:
  - Inclusion of a fourth extension, Extension for Rural Generalist Additional Skills Training.
  - Registrars undertaking Extension Awaiting Fellowship only need to be practising in an accredited Training Facility if they require access to an AGPT Medicare Provider Number.
  - Clarified that registrars undertaking Extension to undertake an approved Academic Post is capped at a maximum of 6 FTE months. This means that an approved Academic Post term is to be taken over 12 FTE months as 0.5 FTE extension to undertake an approved Academic Post and 0.5 FTE clinical practise as part of registrars training on the AGPT Program.

## Withdrawal Policy

- Major changes:
  - Changes to the number of days for withdrawal, cooling off periods and appeals.

## Registrar Leave Policy

- Major changes:
  - Category 2 Leave will now be approved by the RTO unless the registrar is being placed on leave as they have been unable to be matched with an appropriate Training Facility.
  - Registrars will need to work with their RTO to ensure that they meet the Medical Board of Australia's registration standards, particularly with regard to recency of practice, when returning to training following an extended period of leave.
  - Registrars can apply to defer the commencement of training for a maximum of 12 calendar months as specified. Registrars who are not prepared to commence training after this may be withdrawn.

## Transfer Policy

- Major changes:
  - Registrars are unable to appeal against an RTO's decision if they are not enrolled in that RTO's training program.

## How to access GP Synergy policies:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' (top toolbar).
3. Search 'policy'



2017  
GPTEC

2017 General Practice Training  
and Education Conference

Abstracts open: **7 February 2017**

Abstracts close: **21 March 2017**

Further information will be available from  
the 2017 GPTEC website in January 2017:

[www.gptec2017.com.au](http://www.gptec2017.com.au)



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## Key dates



**13 Mar to 3 Apr:** Practices to update their training placement capacity for term 2 2017.

**27 Mar:** Competency Assessment due for registrars in first or second GP terms\*

**19 Apr:** Practices notified of training placement caps.

**24 Apr:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

**22 May:** Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP\*

**23 Jun:** Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2017.2 term

**17 July:** Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP \*

**6 Aug:** End date term 1 2017

**7 Aug:** Start date term 2 2017

**4 Feb:** End date term 2 2018

\*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.

## External activities of interest

- Cremorne GP Group | Last Tuesday every month | Cremorne | [More information](#)
- Alcohol and other drugs: Referral pathways and treatment options | New England Division of General Practice / Hunter New England Central Coast PHN \ Panacea Health Services | 18 March 2017 | Armidale | [More information](#)
- FPAA National Certificate in Reproductive and Sexual Health for Doctors | 13-14 May & 24-25 Jun & 29 & 30 Jul | Canberra | [More information](#)
- Australian Association for Adolescent Health - Youth Health Conference | 6-7 July | Sydney | [More information](#)

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

## Need some help?

### Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
  - Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211  
[kim\\_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:kim_vanbruchem@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

# 2017 GP Synergy Supervisor Professional Development Program



## Regional workshops

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact	Does this activity attract a stipend?*
<b>Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney</b>					
Chippendale	Planning for learning	Tue 21 March	6pm for 7pm-9pm	<a href="#">Shirleen Chand</a>	Yes
Liverpool	Planning for learning	Thu 30 March	9am-12pm		Yes
Chippendale	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Tue 10 October	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
Liverpool	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Thu 26 October	9am-12pm		Yes
<b>Hunter, New England and Central Coast</b>					
Armidale	Topic 1: Planning for learning   Topic 2: TBA	Sat 13 May	10am-4pm	<a href="#">Cally Earl Smith</a>	Yes
Newcastle	Topic 1: Planning for learning   Topic 2: TBA	Wed 24 May	9am-5pm	<a href="#">Jacky Porter</a>	Yes
Newcastle	Topic 1: Facilitating clinical reasoning   Topic 2: TBA	Wed 6 September	9am-5pm		Yes
Tamworth	Topic 1: Facilitating clinical reasoning   Topic 2: TBA	Sat 28 October	10am-4pm	<a href="#">Cally Earl Smith</a>	Yes
<b>Murrumbidgee and ACT</b>					
Canberra	Planning for learning	Thu 9 March	6pm for 7pm-9pm	<a href="#">Lilene Hewett</a>	Yes
Wagga Wagga	Planning for learning	Thu 11 May	6pm for 7pm-9pm	<a href="#">Claire Doyle</a>	Yes
Canberra	Coaching for performance and managing difficult conversations	Sat 5 August	9am-4pm	<a href="#">Lilene Hewett</a>	Yes
Canberra	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Wed 20 September	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
Wagga Wagga	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Sat 4 November	10am-1pm	<a href="#">Claire Doyle</a>	Yes
<b>Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney</b>					
Penrith	Planning for learning	Wed 22 March	6pm for 7pm-9pm	<a href="#">Shirleen Chand</a>	Yes
North Sydney	Planning for learning	Wed 24 May	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
Bella Vista	Planning for learning	Tue 6 June	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
Hazelbrook	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Wed 6 September	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
North Sydney	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Wed 11 October	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
Parramatta	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Tue 14 November	6pm for 7pm-9pm		Yes
<b>North Coast</b>					
Ballina	Day 1: Planning for learning / Facilitating clinical reasoning Day 2: Clinical Teaching Visitor (CTV) training	Sat 18 – Sun 19 March	10am-5pm   9am-1pm (TBC)	<a href="#">Alison Soady</a>	Yes
Port Macquarie	Day 1: Planning for learning / Facilitating clinical reasoning Day 2: Clinical Teaching Visitor (CTV) training	Sat 3 – Sun 4 June	10am-5pm   9am-1pm (TBC)		Yes
Coffs Harbour	Day 1: Planning for learning / Facilitating clinical reasoning Day 2: Clinical Teaching Visitor (CTV) training	Sat 16 – Sun 17 September	10am-5pm   9am-1pm (TBC)		Yes
<b>South Eastern</b>					
Wollongong	Planning for learning	Wed 22 March	Half day AM	<a href="#">Robyn Fanning</a>	Yes
South Coast	Planning for learning	Sat 1 April	Half day AM		Yes
Wollongong	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Wed 1 November	Half day AM		Yes
South Coast	Facilitating clinical reasoning	Sat 4 November	Half day AM		Yes
<b>Western NSW</b>					
Dubbo	Breakfast meetings	23 Feb, 27 Apr, 6 July, 24 Aug, 26 Oct	7.30am-9am	<a href="#">Rachel Carlow</a>	No
Dubbo	Topic 1: Planning for learning Topic 2: The grey zone - ethical and professional dilemmas	Sat 29 April	9am-4pm		Yes
Orange	Topic 1: Planning for learning Topic 2: Facilitating clinical reasoning	Sat 17 June	9am-4pm		Yes
Bathurst	Topic 1: Facilitating clinical reasoning Topic 2: TBA	Sat 23 September <sup>*new date</sup>	9am-4pm		Yes



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## NSW/ACT wide activities

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact	Does this activity attract a stipend?*
Sydney (exact location TBA)	Clinical Teaching Visitor (CTV) training <b>Attendees:</b> Supervisors who are Clinical Teaching Visitors.	Sat 17 June	10am-4pm	<a href="#">Paula Lamont</a>	Yes
International Conference Centre, Darling Harbour	General Practice Education and Training Conference (GPTEC). <b>Attendees:</b> Supervisors from all subregions welcome to attend. Note – limited places are available. An expression of interest will be sent to supervisors in early-mid 2017.	Wed 16 – Thu 17 August	8.30am-5.00pm daily	<a href="#">Paula Lamont</a>	No
International Conference Centre, Darling Harbour	Supervisor Professional Development Day: Multiple streams including organisation updates, new supervisor support and educational options for experienced supervisors. <b>Attendees:</b> Supervisors from all subregions welcome to attend.	Fri 18 August	10am-4pm (TBC)	<a href="#">Shirleen Chand</a>	Yes

## Clinical Teaching Training Workshop – applicable to new supervisors by invitation only

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact	Does this activity attract a stipend?*
Liverpool	Clinical Teaching Training Workshop	Fri 3 Feb	8.30am-4.30pm	<a href="#">Shirleen Chand</a>	Yes
Liverpool	Clinical Teaching Training Workshop	Fri 12 May	8.30am-4.30pm		Yes
Liverpool	Clinical Teaching Training Workshop	Fri 21 July	8.30am-4.30pm		Yes
Liverpool	Clinical Teaching Training Workshop	Fri 3 Nov	8.30am-4.30pm		Yes

## Webinars – all supervisors welcome

Date	Time	Topic	Contact	Does this activity attract a stipend?*
Tue 7 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	Support GPT	<a href="#">Rachel Carlow</a>	Yes
Wed 8 February	1pm-2pm	Support GPT		Yes
Wed 15 February	1pm-2pm	Ready, set ,go – welcome to the new GP term		Yes
Wed 15 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	Support GPT – an in-practice teaching support		Yes
Thu 16 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	Ready, set ,go – welcome to the new GP term		Yes
Wed 22 February	7.30pm-8.30pm	ACRRM training update – the new training plan		Yes
Thu 9 March	7.30pm-8.30pm	Teaching multimorbidity		Yes
Tue 6 April	7.30pm-8.30pm	RACGP exams – what GP Synergy provides for your registrar. Keeping you informed.		Yes
Thu 11 May	7.30pm-8.30pm	How to support your registrar with preparing for ACRRM assessments		Yes
Thu 8 June	7.30pm-8.30pm	Consultation models - some practical tips to help your registrar thrive		Yes
Thu 20 July	7.30pm-8.30pm	The science of our art – using reason and probability		Yes
Thu 14 September	7.30pm-8.30pm	TBA		Yes
Thu 12 October	7.30pm-8.30pm	TBA		Yes
Thu 9 November	7:30pm-8.30pm	How to support your registrar to prepare for the RACGP exams		Yes

### \* Important note:

- Stipends for attendance at nominated GP Synergy workshops and webinars, and reimbursement for travel and accommodation (as per GP Synergy guidelines) will only be paid upon confirmation of attendance **and** completion of a post-workshop evaluation within the specified timeframe.
- Please always check the invitation sent closer to the activity for further information.