



PGPPP AND RECRUITMENT TO GENERAL PRACTICE: FOUR YEARS EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Background

South Australia (SA) has long been involved in the placement of prevocational doctors in general practice. The state implemented the first pilot placements at Cleve and Jamestown in 1987 which evolved into Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's (ACRRM) Rural and Remote Area Placement Program in 2000. With the advent of the Prevocational GP Placements Program (PGPPP) in 2004, SA was again in the forefront, with a total of eight practices (rural and urban) taking interns (PGY1) from the five teaching hospitals in South Australia. Currently there are 16 practices taking junior doctors through the scheme with the three regional training providers – Adelaide to Outback GP Training Program (AOGP), Sturt Fleurieu General Practice & Training (SFGPET) and Greater Green Triangle General Practice and Training (GGTGPE).

South Australian's long involvement with intern placements in general practice makes it ideally placed to analyse the role of the PGPPP in recruitment to general practice training. This paper summarises the results of four years of experience from the three Regional Training Providers (RTPs) in SA.

Method

Data from the PGPPP programs from the three SA Regional Training Providers were analysed retrospectively to determine the number of SA PGPPP interns being accepted into GP training in South Australia. Data were also obtained from GPET to determine the number of interns from the SA Programs recruited to RTPs interstate.

Descriptive analysis was undertaken of the results from 2005 to 2008 inclusive on the number of interns accepted into GP training with AOGP, other RTPs in SA or interstate.

Results

A total of 260 interns have been placed in practices in South Australia through the PGPPP since 2005. Of these 260, 60 have been accepted into GP training (23.1%). A summary of the numbers by RTP is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: SA PGPPP interns accepted to GP Training by Regional Training Provider

Regional Training Provider	Freq	%
Adelaide to outback GP Training Program	33	12.7
Other SA RTPs	22	8.5
Interstate RTP	5	1.9
Total	60	23.1

Retention by RTP for GP training

Of the 60 PGPPP interns who were accepted into GP training, AOGP retained 80.6% of interns they trained (Table 2). A total of 5 (8.3%) SA PGPPP interns were accepted into interstate GP training programs.

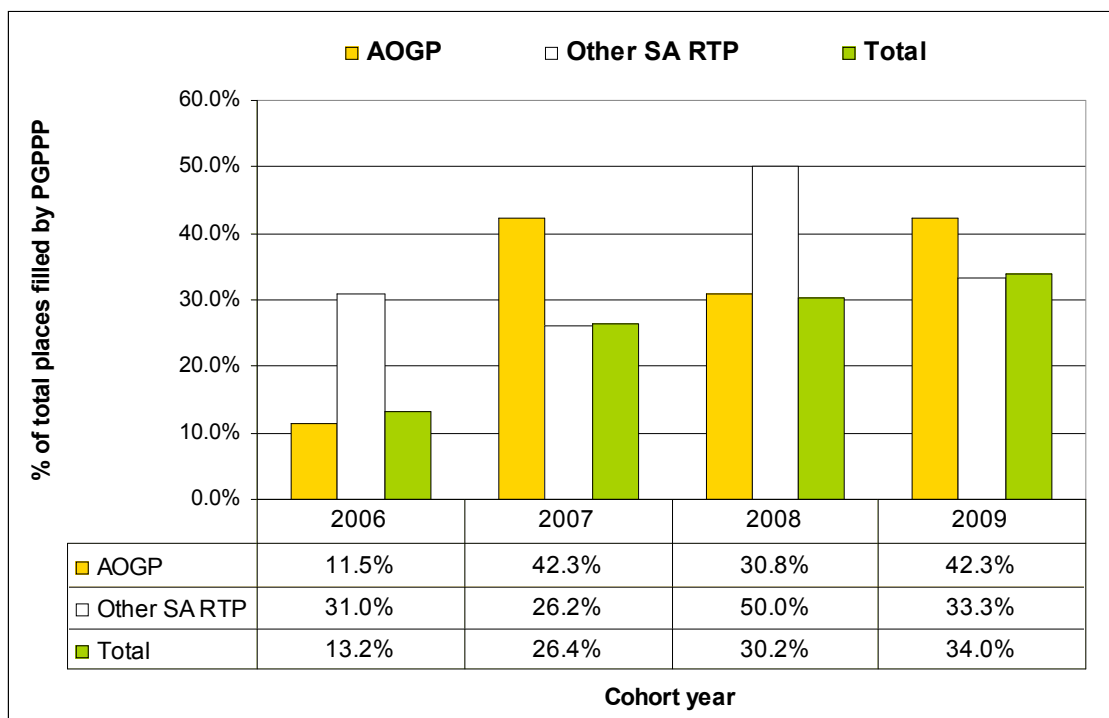
Table 2: PGPPP interns accepted into by GP training by RTP PGPPP Training Provider, 2006-2009 cohort

		Interns accepted to GP training by RTP			
		AOGP	Other SA RTPs	Interstate	Total
Interns trained by RTP PGPPP	AOGP	25 (80.6%)	3 (9.7%)	3 (9.7%)	31 (100%)
	Other SA RTPs	8 (27.6%)	19 (65.5%)	2 (6.9%)	29 (100%)
	Total	33 (55.0%)	22 (36.7%)	5 (8.3%)	60 (100%)

Proportion of GP places filled by PGPPP interns

Over the last four years, there has been an increasing proportion of successful applicants to the SA RTPs who participated in the SA PGPPP. Over the three training providers, the percentage of places filled by PGPPP interns has increased from 13.2% of places in 2006 cohort to 34% of places in 2009 cohort (Figure 1). In the 2009 cohort, 42.3% of AOGP 26 places a were filled by PGPPP interns (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Percentage of training places filled by SA PGPPP interns by cohort year and SA regional training providers



Conclusion

This snapshot of the recruitment role of the PGPPP in South Australia indicates that nearly a quarter of all interns placed in SA PGPPP posts are accepted into GP training

Furthermore, the percentage of PGPPP interns filling the number of GP training places in SA has steadily increased over the last four years from 13% to 34% of training places.

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