

General Practice Training in Victoria

Stuart Anderson, GP Registrar



Variety adds plenty of spice to the life of GP Registrar, Dr Stuart Anderson, and that is a big part of the reason he has taken up the challenge of working as a rural GP.

Stuart Anderson works in general practice, in an aboriginal co-operative, as a lecturer with a School of Rural Health and also as a Registrar Liaison Officer. Stuart is training with Gippsland Education & Training for General Practice (getGP).

“Work is pretty good at the moment. I am working in several different fields (clinical medicine, academic medicine, medical politics) so each day of the week I have something fresh to do,” he says.

“This is so different to how I have worked before; from Grade prep until completing my subsequent term, it has always been going to the same place to work every day, five days a week.”

For Stuart, the life of GP offers lots of different things.

“I wanted to be able to get to know my patients and care for them through all stages of their lives and all types of illness.

“I want to practice a wide variety of skills, incorporating office-based and procedural medicine.

“Importantly, I can structure my time so I have a life outside of medicine and can balance my work and home time.”

Stuart says exposure to speciality medicine as an undergraduate showed him a lot of interesting things “but nothing that I could see myself doing all day, every day, for the next 40 years.

“I have always wanted to be a rural doctor and general practice is the perfect job to be able to work in rural Australia.”

The GP Registrar role also meets his needs, as it gives him the support he likes at this stage of his career. “It gives me the ability to function from day one of training as an independent doctor, but with the supervision of experienced GPs to back you up.”

There are highs and lows, he says, but the most important thing is feeling like he is making a difference, for patients and colleagues alike.

“Clinically, I think one of the more rewarding aspects of general practice is mental health, every patient who I have been able to help with a mental health problem returns a different person; you really feel you have made a difference to their lives.

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www.bogong.org.au



www.getgp.net.au



www.ggtgpet.com.au



www.vma.com.au



www.vicfelix.com.au

"I have also enjoyed the opportunity to work as RLO and support my registrars at a local level whilst being involved nationally with registrar issues through GPRA."

And of course, life in the country provides Stuart with plenty of space to enjoy one of his other great loves – riding his motorbike around the scenic countryside in regional Victoria.

Along with his partner, who is also a GP Registrar, Stuart is set to continue what is something of a family tradition by following in the footsteps of his father, who was also a rural GP based in Nhill.

About VicNet

VicNet is a consortium comprising the five Victorian Regional Training Providers – Bogong Regional Training Network, Gippsland Education and Training for general practice (getGP), Greater Green Triangle GP Education & Training, Victorian Felix Medical Education and Victorian Metropolitan Alliance (VMA) – and Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV).

About RWAV

RWAV's a major player in rural general practice. RWAV's recruitment programs and ongoing support services have been fundamental to increasing rural GP numbers in Victoria. Key priorities include the provision of support services for rural doctors and their families, professional development programs, locum support, marketing of rural general practice, recruitment of rural doctors including specialist outreach services, workforce planning and research to inform government policy. For more information contact RWAV on (03) 9349 7800 or visit the RWAV website at www.rwav.com.au



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