Title

ACRRM workshop for The National Australian Advanced Specialised Skills Mentor Network: Provision of mentorship programme for Regsitrars working and training in Advanced specialised skills including transition to independent practice focusing on building resilience, training and retention of skills for Rural and remote practice.

Abstract

Australia’s health workforce is under tremendous pressure and must undergo significant transformation to meet the rapidly rising demands for healthcare. 1

The Australian College of Rural Remote Medicine, ACRRM, is the only College in the world solely dedicated to rural and remote practice. Their programme certifies the broad range of skills and qualifications needed to be a confident and competent rural practitioner2.
Fellowship training Regsitrars undertake 3 yrs core learning in both hospital in community medicine in regional and rural remote Australia with an extra year of an Advanced specialised skill AST selected by the registrar in accordance with community need. This range of skills assist the registrar in provision of quality primary and secondary care in their working enviroment.
It is know that some registrars do not maintain these skills. Maintenance of skills occurs where there is a high quality of support during training which continues into rural remote enviroments, adequate mentorship and selection of the right registrar attributes3.
ACRRM is currently initiating ownership of Registrar selection and could create early linkages to mentors, support programmes through face to face at workshops and conferences and by distance. AST support is skill specific with provision of contextual learning and practice preparing the regsitrar for real life practice. Appropriate mentorship can occur from highly experienced rurally based and skilled practitioners who understand and work in the rural remote context that the registrar is aiming to work in. Training Organisations are funded to provide mentor support which could be utilized for this project.

Aim: To Develop a National Australian Advanced Specialised skills Mentor Network.
During the ACRRM 2017 RMA conference, a planning workshop is to be held to create a national mentorship programme of like minded mentors, registrars, educators, managers, policy makers through ACRRM, training organisations and RTOs to provide a sustainable mentoring programme which supports regsitrars through their Advanced specialized skills year and beyond as they transition into procedural practice.
An Expert panel will challenge an experienced audience to identify , strenghths and successes of informal mentor programmes and relationships through current practice with innovative solutions such as telehealth, remote access, new models of training and blended workplaces. Aiming to identify and solve barriers to achieving and maintaining these extended skills life long through mentorship programmes.
Within this group discuss ideas re Creation of a Network which can assist ACRRM with Development and Mapping existing curriculums and professional certifications to enhance the AST qualifications eg university courses, diplomas eg Royal College of Physicicans; diploma palliative care It can brain storm ideas for creation of new advanced specialised skills to compliment demands of the current health care trends eg Palliative care, medical administration, virtual health care, diversity of clinical practice care, environmental health care.
Target Audience to include; Directors of training and education council, ACRRM fellows, registrars , Medical educators and training organisation representatives, supervisors, mentors, stakeholder representation from governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services, Hospital health services, Primary Health Care Networks and others.

 1. Australia Co. AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE HEALTH WORKFORCE – DOCTORS. In: Australia HW, ed. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia; 2014.

 2. ACRRM. Overview of training with the College. website. <http://www.acrrm.org.au/training-towards-fellowship/overview-of-training-with-the-college>. Published 2017.

 3. McKenzie A, Beaton N, Hollins J, Jukka C, Hollins A. Supporting GP advanced rural skills training. *Australian Journal of Rural Health.* 2013;21(1):41-45.