

The Adelaide Prevocational Psychiatry Program Accreditation Report



The Adelaide Prevocational Psychiatry Program Across SALHN, CALHN, NALHN, and CHSALHN

Accreditation Report Details

Date of Visit:	12 November 2015
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Date approved by SA MET Health Advisory Council:	22 February 2016
Expiry Date:	23 February 2020

Accreditation Decision

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 years with 15 provisos
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Executive Summary

The Adelaide Pre-vocational Psychiatry Program (TAPPP) is a psychiatric education program for post-graduate year 2 plus (PGY2+) trainee medical officers (TMOs). TAPPP currently has 25 TMOs undertaking the program. TMOs complete six month psychiatry terms across multiple local health networks (LHNs), in both hospital and community settings. The Mental Health Medical Education Unit (MEU) is situated within the Central Adelaide LHN (CALHN) and is responsible for coordinating the training program and providing welfare support for the TMOs. The Psychiatry Education and Training Committee (PETC) meets bi-monthly and has oversight of the educational experience of TAPPP TMOs.

TAPPP TMOs are recruited through the state-wide SA MET process for PGY2+ TMOs. The Mental Health MEU coordinates the shortlisting, interviewing, ranking of applicants and allocation to terms across multiple sites. The MEU has made an effort to inform LHN staff about TAPPP and support them to provide accurate information to TAPPP TMOs. There is scope for improved clarity around the role of the Mental Health MEU, the structure of TAPPP and how TMOs are allocated to terms.

On 12 November 2015, an SA MET accreditation team assessed the 30 TMO posts in TAPPP and considered three new posts. The team reviewed the content of the accreditation submission, TMO survey feedback and obtained further information during interviews with TMOs, Term Supervisors, MEU staff and CALHN executive staff.

The organisational structure of TAPPP is different to other South Australian prevocational training programs, with an off-site MEU, terms across multiple LHNs and a weekly tutorial at Glenside Health Service Campus. Another non-standard aspect of TAPPP is the use of 'Regional RMO Preceptors'; term supervisors who also maintain an overview of all TAPPP TMOs in their LHN and are easily accessible by the term supervisors and TMOs. This method of oversight provides on-site support for TMOs.

Clinical directors report TAPPP TMOs are a strong asset to the clinical team because of their commitment to working in psychiatry and the experience they gain over the longer 6-month rotations. TMOs report excellent learning opportunities on TAPPP terms, with at least one hour of one-on-one supervision a week. These supervision sessions are often when assessments are completed. TMO assessment is particularly important over the longer 6-month terms but the rates of return for TMO assessments are not known.

Weekly tutorials are provided on a Thursday afternoon at Glenside for all TAPPP TMOs and attendance is frequently over 60%. The quality of the tutorials is high and consultants have noted the high value of TMOs meeting their peers weekly and establishing a strong collegial network that will serve them well throughout their career. Due to attendance by general trainees and medical students, the size of the room has been inadequate.

The MEU has a good grasp of current issues amongst the TMOs, who feel comfortable to approach the MEU with any issues of concern. TMOs are clearly informed of their options for raising and resolving concerns. There is a 'Near-peer supervision' group that is led by a senior registrar in psychiatry training, which offers an informal forum to discuss concerns, alongside any formal processes.

TMOs expressed concerns about a high and challenging workload on particular terms, even higher at times due to a lack of backfill or relief arrangement. There have been instances of TMOs struggling to obtain timely approval for leave applications. There is need to review the workload on certain terms and develop a mechanism to provide relieving for TMO posts in hospital settings.