

Local Health Network Accreditation Report



Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service Country Health SA Local Health Network

Accreditation Report Details

Date of Visit:	21 June, 2017
Team Leaders:	Dr Adrian Anthony
Team Members:	Dr Scott Sypek Dr Tim Surman
SA MET Ex-Officio:	Colleen Cryans Stacey Holst Jessica McKinlay

Date approved by SA MET Health Advisory Council:	23 August, 2017
Expiry Date:	August 2021

Accreditation Decision

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 years with 8 provisos
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years with provisos
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year with provisos
<input type="checkbox"/> Not approved

Executive Summary

The Mount Gambier and District Health Service (MGDHS) is accredited for eight intern posts, eight post-graduate year 2 plus (PGY2+) posts and one posts available to either an intern or PGY2+ role. Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs) at MGDHS are overall very well supported, with a strong education and training culture embedded and led by the Medical Education Unit (MEU).

MGDHS continues to provide high quality education, training and supervision to TMOs, which offers unique clinical exposure and direct working relationships with Consultants. The commitment and genuine enthusiasm of the contracted Flinders Rural Health South Australia (FRHSA) staff that make up the MEU is undoubtedly the TMOs education and training program's strength.

The partnership between Country Health South Australia Local Health Network (CHSALHN) and FRHSA has been an extremely efficient and an operationally effective arrangement in delivering a prevocational training program in Mount Gambier. More recently, the regular partnership meetings have been difficult to maintain, however communication through various working groups and committees has provided continuous linkages between CHSALHN Executive and FRHSA. CHSALHN historically have struggled to appoint Australian trained medical practitioners, and subsequently rely significantly on an International Medical Graduate (IMGs) workforce. The IMG cohorts, known as Salaried Medical Officers (SMOs) within the facility were considered to require increased support, access to education and training opportunities and pastoral care, similar to their Australian trained counterparts.

The MEU have developed a high quality education and training program that includes innovative resources, learning opportunities and dedicated protected teaching time. Evaluation and continuous improvement continues to be a priority of the MEU, with high rates of return on assessments, and feedback sought from the TMOs in regards to perceptions around the quality and relevance of the TMO training program, and invitations for ideas on educational topics. Education and learning opportunities are a fundamental priority for MGDHS and executed with dedication by the MEU. The supervision arrangement between the TMO and Consultant creates a space for direct learning, which is a unique educational opportunity that is not experienced by metropolitan TMOs.

TMOs are rotated across terms in Anaesthetics, Emergency Medicine, General Medicine, General Surgery and Paediatrics, which provides exposure to a variety of clinical procedures and a broad case-mix of patients. Anaesthetics was noted to be a particularly valuable term, with a good mixture of daily tasks and procedural skills. Some minor concerns were raised around TMOs on the General Medicine Unit working out of their scope of practice and an increased workload. The afterhours Emergency Department (ED) arrangement also requires consideration, in regards to increased workforce or an alternative afterhours support team.

TMOs across the majority of terms are well supervised at all times at a level appropriate to their experience and responsibilities, with the exception of the General Surgery/Orthopaedic Surgery term.

The General Surgery/Orthopaedic Surgery PGY2+ post did not meet a considerable number of Accreditation Standards, and therefore its accreditation has only been granted until the end of 2017, subject to addressing the outlined provisos. The Orthopaedic Surgery component of this term lacked any supervision input, educational opportunities, learning objectives and the roles and responsibilities of the TMO were unknown.

Assessment processes were routinely completed across General Surgery, Paediatrics, Anaesthetics, Emergency Medicine and General Medicine terms. PGY2+ assessment is generally less formal, however TMOs are provided with the opportunity to give and receive feedback. The General Surgery/Orthopaedic Surgery term did not have any specific assessment process for the Orthopaedic Surgery component, however TMOs were sufficiently assessed by the General Surgery Consultants.

TMOs across majority of terms are happy with the working environment experienced at MGDHS, with minimal or no overtime indicated and adequate supervision. There is a clear sense of community amongst the small cohort of TMOs, with those needing extra support in regular correspondence with the MEU.

The accreditation report outlines in further detail the strengths and areas for development in the TMO program at MGDHS.