

Message from the Presiding Member of the SA MET Health Advisory Council: COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges to our professional and personal lives, and the wellbeing of our friends and family. During this time, it is important that we work collaboratively to allow our healthcare system to meet the challenges ahead.

The South Australian Medical Education and Training (SA MET) Unit has been focusing efforts to support core functions around prevocational accreditation, intern recruitment and supporting the Chief Medical Officer.

Ahpra Intern Requirements for 2020

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has responded to the COVID-19 crisis by creating increased flexibility for the 2020 intern cohort.

Ahpra will waive the mandatory rotation requirements for interns in 2020, and will accept the following supervised clinical experience for general registration:

- at least 40 weeks full-time equivalent service (a reduction of seven weeks to allow for isolation/sick leave etc.)
- the clinical experience can take place in accredited and non-accredited positions
- the requirement for the usual rotations of medicine, surgery and emergency medical care is waived. The Board will accept clinical experience in any supervised rotations.

Confirmation of the above information and other relevant medical registration details is available at www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/2020-03-30-COVID19-Board-response.aspx.

Ahpra have also provided increased flexibility in regards to prevocational accreditation, with approvals to grant periods of accreditation extensions to facilities that were due for an accreditation visit over the coming months.

We would like to encourage the Local Health Networks to continue to rotate the interns through the core disciplines; however we understand that over the coming months the medical workforce may be required in specific departments to directly support the COVID-19 response.

2021 Intern Recruitment

The SA MET Unit has continue to progress the intern recruitment process for 2021. Please ensure you continue to check the SA Health Careers and SA MET Unit websites for updates on when 2021 intern applications open.

In addition, the SA MET Unit are working closely with education provider partners. Dr Chris McGowan, Chief Executive, Department for Health and Wellbeing has stated that SA Health is committed to continuing clinical placements, acknowledging that there may be some changes.

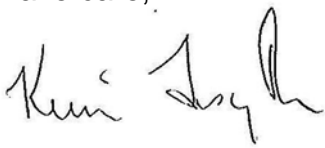
Trainee Medical Officer Wellbeing

I applaud the tireless efforts of our frontline medical workforce, and particularly to our Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs), who've been called to respond and assist in this public health emergency. This is a unique medical training experience and we urge all TMOs to maintain your own health and wellbeing during this time.

The Australian Medical Association's Doctors in Training Committee have provided valuable information to support TMOs through the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit www.drs4drs.com.au to access supportive health and wellbeing information.

Should you need further information regarding any of the above, please visit www.samet.org.au or email the SA MET Unit staff at healthSAMET@sa.gov.au.

Take care,



Professor Kevin Forsyth

Presiding Member

South Australian Medical Education and Training Health Advisory Council