

# COVID-19 Website Update

South Australian Medical Education and Training Unit  
10 May 2020



## Updates from the SA MET Unit: COVID-19 Pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the way we work and live, the South Australian Medical Education and Training (SA MET) Unit has been focusing efforts to support core functions around prevocational accreditation, intern and PGY2+ recruitment and supporting the Chief Medical Officer.

The below information is accurate and up to date as of **29 April 2020**.

### ***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 have waived 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.

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.

The SA MET Unit have extended this flexibility to the Local Health Networks by postponing upcoming accreditation site visit until 2021. Mechanisms are in place to ensure the quality of medical education, training and wellbeing for our TMOs continues to be of a high standard.

It has been positive to note that the Local Health Networks are continuing to rotate interns through the core disciplines as usual. Should you have any concerns regarding your intern year, please contact your Medical Education Officer in your home hospital, or contact the SA MET Unit accreditation team via [healthSAMETaccreditation@sa.gov.au](mailto:healthSAMETaccreditation@sa.gov.au).

### ***Recruitment and Allocations***

Applications for 2021 internship positions will not be delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue in 2020 as usual. Applications opened Australia wide on 4 May 2020 and close on 4 June 2020. First round offers will take place on 13 July 2020.

SA Health continues to take advice from Ahpra on matters affecting registration and the most up to date information about the application process as well as Frequently Asked Questions can be found in the [intern job pack](#).

The Local Health Networks have been working through PGY2+ recruitment and are investigating methods to support social distancing directives by conducting interviews through video conferencing platforms. Please contact your Local Health Network's Trainee Medical Officer Unit should you have any queries.

### ***Clinical Placements***

The University of Adelaide and Flinders University have been working closely with the Local Health Networks to support the continuation of clinical placements and adapting the education platform where necessary.

Ahpra have also communicated the [National principles for clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), which has been developed collaboratively between Ahpra, the National Boards, the Australian Government and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum. These national principles for clinical education are intended to guide the professions, Accreditation Authorities, education providers and health services about student clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The principles detail core aspects to support the continuation of clinical placements, with the safety of patients, students and staff working in health services, and the provision of high-quality care to patients being paramount.

### ***Medical Specialty Colleges***

The medical speciality colleges have been communicating with trainees about training postponement and how recognition of learning and new approaches to training could be utilised during the implementation of social distancing measures. The SA MET Unit encourages trainees to closely monitor the medical speciality college's website for further updates.

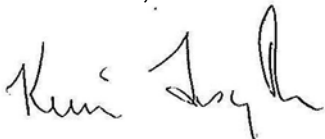
### ***Trainee Medical Officer Wellbeing***

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](http://www.drs4drs.com.au) to access supportive health and wellbeing information.

[Doctors Health SA](#) is a local organisation that offers a range of information and support to South Australian medical practitioners. [Self-care for doctors in a COVID world](#), outlines five critical principles for ensuring personal and professional care whilst undertaking your clinical duties.

Should you need further information regarding any of the above, please visit [www.samet.org.au](http://www.samet.org.au) or email the SA MET Unit staff at [healthSAMET@sa.gov.au](mailto:healthSAMET@sa.gov.au).

Take care,



Professor Kevin Forsyth

**Presiding Member**

**South Australian Medical Education and Training Health Advisory Council**