

Local Health Network Accreditation Report



Women's and Children's Health Network

Accreditation Report Details

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| Date of Visit: | 11 November 2020 |
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| Date approved by SA MET Health Advisory Council: | 24 February 2021 |
| Expiry Date: | 25 February 2025 |

Accreditation Decision

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| 4 years with 6 provisos |
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Executive Summary

The Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) is accredited for 8 non-core intern posts and 63 post-graduate year 2 plus (PGY2+) posts. Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs) at WCHN are well supported and supervised, and have a unique opportunity to gain clinical exposure across specialist care for women, babies and children with acute and chronic conditions.

It was evident that the COVID-19 pandemic provided challenges across all areas of service delivery, including medical education and training. In most areas face-to-face education ceased, with the divisions adapting and approaching the facilitation of educational sessions virtually. The resilience and ongoing commitment towards medical education and training shown by the Consultants, Term Supervisors, senior clinical staff and the Medical Education Unit (MEU) were clearly demonstrated and commended.

WCHN's *Strategy 2026: Realising Potential, Creating Together* outlines the strategic direction and mission for the network that incorporates high quality research, education and teaching to enhance the capabilities of the medical workforce.

The MEU and TMO Unit are well staffed, with both units working extremely well together to provide TMOs with a high level of administrative, education and training support. The Centre for Education and Training coordinates a variety of educational opportunities for TMOs, including simulation laboratory and other innovative training technologies.

The Medical Education Committee monitors, assesses and is active in ensuring that TMO education and training are efficient and appropriate across WCHN terms. The MEU clearly demonstrated that TMO feedback is a high priority and contributes to quality assurance and improvements. The MEU is commended for its innovative approach towards strategies for increasing feedback and data collection methods to support Term Supervisors in the assessment of TMOs and the quality of the education and training provided at WCHN.

The WCHN facilitates its education and training program in collaboration with the four divisions, with much of the teaching in the clinical areas. All divisions have scheduled TMO-specific educational sessions, although the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was notable, especially within the Obstetrics & Gynaecology term, currently in the process of redeveloping its educational program.

The clinical experience and exposure within the terms offered by WCHN were considered highly valuable, varied and effective in extending TMO skills and knowledge across women's and child health. Some areas for improvement were identified within the Ophthalmology term, which would benefit from increasing structured clinical exposure.

All TMOs receive a full-day orientation on commencement at the WCHN, including the opportunity to complete some mandatory training requirements. Evaluation indicates high TMO participation and positive feedback on content relevance and effectiveness. Orientation to units was mostly positive, with the exception of the Relieving term, where improvements can be made.

TMOs across all WCHN terms were reported to be appropriately supervised at all times at a level appropriate to their experience and responsibilities, with pathways for the escalation of clinical concerns evident.

Most TMOs reported that they had undergone valid and reliable formative mid-term and end-of-term assessment at WCHN. Assessments were completed with Term Supervisors and TMOs were provided with the opportunity to discuss their performance in either a formal or informal capacity.

The accreditation team noted high administrative workloads experienced by TMOs across some terms. The TMO Unit reported that it strived to accommodate leave requests where possible; however, it was noted that sick leave is commonly managed through unrostered overtime by TMOs. It was recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the medical workforce, with difficulty in recruiting medical practitioners evident. Nevertheless, TMOs indicated they felt supported and valued as team members and were enthusiastic about their clinical experiences and exposure at the WCHN.