

NATIONAL GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINERS ASSOCIATION

Background

Vocational training for general practice in Australia began in 1974. A training program based in general practice, with an apprenticeship model of education, was considered the best way to ensure the continuity of quality general practice. Since then, evidence has grown supporting this apprenticeship model as the most successful and preferred method of training. Supervisors have been integral to this educational and training process, building up a valuable body of experience and expertise.

General Practice Supervisors are uniquely positioned in the education arena because of their base within the community and links with formal education suppliers. Many supervisors are involved in providing education within Universities, Divisional, Colleges and community areas, as well as delivering registrar education, both inside and outside the practice. A majority of our Supervisors also take on education of the undergraduates and provide that important initial engagement of the medical student with general practice. Many supervisors are also examiners for the current endpoint of registrar training, the FRACGP Exam. Over the years, supervisors have been instrumental in writing and developing educational materials, essential manuals and video training programs.

Two organizations have developed to provide support for Supervisors. The Independent voice for GP Supervisors is the NGPTA but GPET funds GP Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO) within the consortia and there is the GPSLO Network providing support for the SLOs.

The National General Practice Supervisors Association (NGPSA)...

The National General Practice Supervisors Association was formed in 1998, in response to a need to review the registrars' 'Terms and Conditions' document. A small group of committed GP supervisors has provided representation when needed since then.

In 2004 the Association became incorporated as the **National General Practice Trainers Association (NGPTA)**. This has given the organization a more professional and legal structure and allows for formal membership. A submission for funding the NGPTA is currently before the Minister of DoHA. The combination of federal funding and membership dues would provide the NGPTA with the ability to be an autonomous body. It would represent the interests of general practice supervisors in the provision of vocational training and education, provide a legal entity for negotiating with the Government and other interested parties re Terms and Conditions as well as ensuring national standards of quality training through sharing of experience and expertise. The NGPTA held its inaugural AGM on the 11/8/04 in Brisbane. The NGPTA Board is Ian Kamerman, Simon Young, John Stanford, Alan Leeb, Tony Chambers and Alex Bennett. All members provide a \$20 guarantor on joining the Association. The annual fee will be set at the next AGM.

The GPSLO Network

The General Practice Supervisor Liaison Officers (GPSLOs) provide local support and coordinate education activities for the GP Supervisors within their consortia. The GPSLO Network provides direct support for the GPSLOs nationally. The Network was formed in March 2003 following a national meeting of GPSLOs in Melbourne. GPET funds the network, providing for secretarial support, a list server, teleconferences and meetings. The GPSLO Network acts as a forum for SLO issues and has regular national meetings.