

Sturt Fleurieu establishes Rural Generalist Anaesthetics Training

Adelaide, July 11, 2013: In response to strong demand, leading GP training organisation Sturt Fleurieu has created two new Anaesthetics positions aimed at increasing Rural Generalist training in South Australian rural areas.

Two 'Rural Generalist Anaesthetic Training positions' have been created in collaboration with South Australian Medical Education and Training (SA MET) and the Anaesthetics Departments at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre. These positions will be fully funded by Sturt Fleurieu and each will run for 12 months, starting in 2014.

Sturt Fleurieu CEO Dr Bruce Mugford said of the initiative: "These positions will address fundamental clinical training components for GP training in Anaesthetics which are currently in short supply. They will guarantee dedicated procedural anaesthetics positions for rural Sturt Fleurieu general practice registrars, and create a vital link between large hospital experience and delivery in rural areas."

As part of this initiative, Sturt Fleurieu will also support both specialist departments to deliver rural teaching in hospitals and provide greater context to the experience by developing 'Rural Training Fellowships'. Under the fellowship programme, the Rural Generalist registrar will be released for one week per quarter to undertake procedural work in rural areas at Sturt Fleurieu accredited practices under the supervision of a rural generalist mentor.

The initiative has been welcomed by The Rural Doctors' Association of SA (RDASA), with President and GP anaesthetist Scott Lewis describing the move as "essential to allow registrars prepare themselves for country practice".

"It is essential that there are enough Rural Generalist training positions for doctors wishing to undertake training in maternity care and obstetrics, surgery, mental health, accident and emergency medicine, paediatrics – and anaesthetics. In the past, many doctors have had to seek positions interstate or overseas to obtain appropriate training so we are thrilled that this can now occur right here in South Australia.

"We believe these dedicated training positions for rural trainee registrars will enable them obtain the necessary skills and confidence to provide anaesthesia for surgery and maternity care, as well as for resuscitation and treatment of critically ill patients in country South Australia," he continued. "This initiative has taken some time to occur and we congratulate Sturt Fleurieu on this initiative."

Expressions of interest from Sturt Fleurieu rural registrars to apply for these posts has already occurred and agreements with each of the participating hospitals will be completed in the next couple of months.

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