



## Victorian Geriatric Medicine Training Program Update on Centralised Match for 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services intends to streamline recruitment for junior doctors in Victoria. This involves approximately 6000 doctors. The impact of Covid19 on recruitment has created an impetus to commence the reforms this year, although the full package is likely to take a number of years to implement. The immediate issues are:

- deferment of the 2020 RACP clinical examinations
- the impact of Covid19 on training in 2020
- minimising additional stress at this challenging time
- the logistics of attending multiple interviews

DHHS is currently developing a reform package, holding meetings with stakeholders across all specialty training programs and health services. Some of the issues under discussion include:

- a single site for all positions to be advertised
- a single statewide match for all JMS positions (BPTs and ATs) covering all specialty programs, similar to the statewide intern match
- multi-year contracts for trainees in multi-year training programs, such as BPTs and ATs
- the ability to transfer multi-year contracts between health services, determined by training needs
- greater transparency of all positions available in Victoria. Currently some trainees are accepting non-accredited positions in a health services while accredited positions elsewhere remain unfilled
- greater ability to simultaneously apply to multiple specialties. This is aimed to assist trainees move between specialty training programs, either as a dual trainee, or to enhance single specialty training (e.g. a geriatrics trainee picking up a term in rheumatology or cardiology)

Some reforms will be able to be implemented this year; others are likely to be rolled out over a number of years. At this stage I can advise:

- Negotiations are continuing
- VGMP and associated health services will remain in control of the recruitment process for advanced training in geriatric medicine in Victoria
- VGMP will attempt to align with the approach taken by other RACP specialty training programs in Victoria. This will help enhance the integrity of the match
- All positions advertised on one site
- PMCV has been contracted to run the match
- Referee reports are likely to be standardized
- The burden of interviews is likely to be reduced through a centralised and standardized process
- A match can only take place when an applicant has preferenced a health service, and the health service has preferenced that trainee. No appointment can be made unless both parties have preferenced each other.
- It is still undecided whether there will be a one or two round match. The goal is to have most positions filled in a single match, and only run a second round match if there are unmatched positions and trainees.

The negotiations are complex and continuing. I will keep you informed. I hope to be able to give a definitive outline of the 2021 match in the coming weeks.

Best wishes