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## General Practice Education and Training Ltd

### **A SHOT IN THE ARM FOR GP TRAINING**

The additional general practice training places announced today by the Council of Australian Governments have been welcomed by General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET), the company that funds and oversees vocational training for general practice in Australia.

COAG has boosted the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program by 212 ongoing training places for GP registrars (trainees) to more than 800 places per year from 2011 onwards.

This follows on from 75 new places for 2009 and 100 new places for 2010, announced earlier this month by the Rudd Government.

GPET has also welcomed COAG's additional investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training places for GP registrars training in the AGPT program, included in today's announcement.

GPET's workforce projection modelling indicates the AGPT program has the capacity to train at least 800 registrars per year over the three-four years of the training program via the training network of 21 regional training providers (RTP).

AGPT program registrars (trainees) train for up to four years in supervised hospital and general practice posts in order to qualify for Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP) and/or Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM) and vocational recognition as a GP under Medicare.

GPET Chairman Associate Professor Simon Willcock said the ongoing places for the AGPT program would be a shot in the arm for the training program. GPET received many more applications this year than there were available places for 2009 entry.

"This will also go a long way in helping to meet the demand from the Australian community for access to high quality general practice services," Assoc Prof Willcock said.

"And it will give some security for medical graduates coming through the system, who will now have more opportunities to undertake vocational training in general practice on an ongoing basis.

"In addition, the increased commitment from the Government to general practice training in Indigenous health will help to meet the critical need for high quality primary care."

**For more information please contact Anne Messenger on 0407 961655**