WISDOM FROM A RURAL GENERALIST TRANSFORMATION

Dr James Telfer (Novice) for Dr Denis Lennox (Guru)
Birth of the QLD Rural Generalist Pathway

The RGP was initiated by Queensland Health to “develop and sustain an integrated service and training program to form a career pathway supplying the Rural Generalist workforce that the bush needs” (Roma Agreement, October 2005).
State Recognition of the Practice of Rural Generalist Medicine

1º medical practice in hospital & community

AND...

2º medical practice in at least 1 advanced specialised discipline sans specialised supervision

AND often...

Significant public health practice
QRGP INTERDEPENDENT ELEMENTS

Pathway to Practice from 2nd School to post rural career

Recognition of a fit-for-purpose Discipline

Transformation of Practice to fit community need & aspiration of workforce

Valuation of Practice for its worth
Public remuneration of this generalist practice for its true worth – equivalent to specialised practice
QRGP INTERDEPENDENT ELEMENTS

- Pathway to Practice from 2nd School to post rural career
- Recognition of a fit-for-purpose Discipline
- Transformation of Practice to fit community need & aspiration of workforce
- Valuation of Practice for its worth
Join up in a seamless pathway:

Claudia’s Pathway:
- Good Counsel College Innisfail ‘02
- James Cook University SoM ‘03 to ‘08
  - QH Rural Scholarship ‘05 to ‘08
- RGP PreVoc Training Rockhampton Hospital ‘09 & ‘10
- RGP AS Training (DRANZCOG Advanced)
  Rockhampton Hospital ‘11
- RGP Vocational Training Longreach Hospital & Private Practice from ‘12
- ? Fellowship ‘13
- ? Rural medical generalist practice to at least 2018

Thereafter:
- ? FRANZCOG training
- ? Urban GP
- ? Rural Relieving
- ? Mature career return to RGM
Join up:

Community Service Need

Vocational Interests & Capacities of New Generations of RGs
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<th>PreVoc Training</th>
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So how are we going?
Formal evaluation & business capability assessment:

HWA Funded

Ernst & Young managed 6/12 project:

Review current state of QRGP focussing on stakeholder engagement & process efficiency

Comparative cost analysis of available models of medical service delivery

Assess extent to which QRGP meets expectations of rural communities

Workforce analysis to determine future needs of QRGP

Develop a workforce framework to provide principles, service guidelines and planning tool
The Senate Community Affairs References Committee:
The factors affecting the supply of health services and medical professionals in rural areas – August 2012

Clause 3.48 The Committee is strongly supportive of the Queensland Health initiative to develop a program based upon local needs. The evidence the committee has received has also endorsed the program as being successful in delivering increased access to healthcare in rural areas.
SENATE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 3

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth place on the agenda of the Council of Australian Governments Standing Council on Health an item involving consideration of the expansion of rural generalist programs. It further recommends that, as part of that agenda item, the Council consider an evaluation of the Queensland Health Generalist Program and whether it should be rolled out in other jurisdictions.
Thanks for listening