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General Practice Education and Training Ltd

GP REGISTRARS BEGIN NEW TRAINING YEAR

The 2008 cohort of GP registrars has begun training in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program, joining more than 2,000 fellow registrars on the path to becoming fully-fledged GPs.

General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) expects to fill all 600 training places this year, with 564 new registrars already enrolled in the AGPT program and a further 26 applications being processed under a flexible entry scheme. The new flexible entry scheme, open until May 2008, allows practice-ready doctors to apply for training between selection rounds, and further applications are expected.

GPET Chair, Associate Professor Simon Willcock, said the result was better than anticipated given the historical low in the number of medical graduates coming through the system.

“We anticipated a drop of about 8% in applications, but it has been much less than that,” Prof Willcock said. “With the substantial increase in medical graduates entering the workforce over the next few years, we hope to see a steady rise in the number of applications for GP training.

“GPET and the AGPT program’s 21 regional training providers will redouble their recruitment efforts to take advantage of the increase in graduates,” he said. “We are aiming to increase the percentage of Australian graduates applying for general practice from its current low of around 27% to well above 30%.”

All 250 rural training pathway places are expected be filled in 2008, with 238 already accepted and about 20 applications being processed. There have been 326 acceptances so far for 350 general pathway places, with more applications under way.

This year to date 356 females (63%) have accepted training places, along with 208 males (37%); 411 (73%) of this year’s new GP registrars are Australian medical graduates and 153 (27%) are international medical graduates.

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