



Shaping the primary care physician of tomorrow

Australia and the Asia Pacific Region



Six principles to ensure safe and sustainable high quality primary care medicine



1. Attract and train 'the brightest and the best'
 2. Support lifelong learning
 3. Provide excellent practices and infrastructure
 4. Enable ready access to the best available evidence
 5. Value the generalist tradition
 6. Cultivate good morale, and a yearning for excellence
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Attract and train the 'brightest and the best'

- An attractive profession
 - being valued by our patients, the community, our peers and the profession
 - being stretched/challenged, not stressed
 - being recognised and rewarded for quality
 - Exposure to general practice
 - exposure before leaving university
 - exposure in early postgraduate years
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Commitment to Education and Training



- RACGP Standards for Education and Training of general practitioners
 - Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 - RACGP Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice
 - RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice
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Five Domains of General Practice

1. **Communication skills and the Patient-Doctor Relationship**
2. **Applied Professional Knowledge and Skills**
3. **Population Health and the Context of General Practice**
4. **Professional and Ethical Role**
5. **Organisational and Legal Dimensions**

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Support Lifelong learning

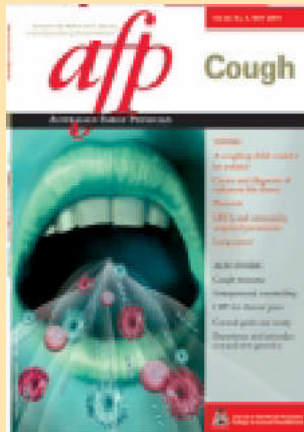


- Continuing Professional Development
 - Quality improvement through active ongoing learning
 - Compulsory
 - 22,000 participants
 - Support for overseas trained doctors
 - support for acquiring knowledge, technical skills and adapting to the local environment
 - Online learning - *gplearning*
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Provide excellent practices and infrastructure

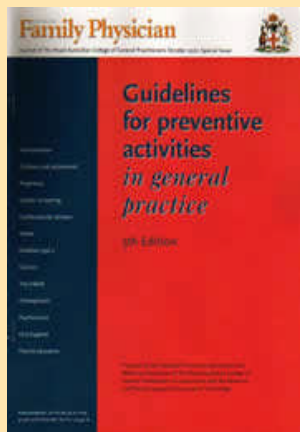
- *RACGP Standards for General Practices*
 - Standards for the processes, structures and outcomes for general practices
 - Standards for other primary medical care services
 - New edition available now
 - Includes standards for use of information technology in general practice
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Provide access to the best available evidence

RACGP resources

- Australian Family Physician
- Red Book (Guidelines for Preventive Care)
- SNAP guide (Smoking, Nutrition, Alcohol, Physical Activity)
- Silver Book (Care for the aged)
- Guidelines on care of indigenous Australians





Valuing the generalist tradition



- Generalist care includes
 - universal unrefereed access
 - whole person medical care for individuals, families and communities
 - comprehensive, coordinated and continuing medical care
 - drawing on biomedical, psychological, social and environmental understandings of health
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Maintaining morale and a yearning for excellence



- We need to keep our doctors if we want to maintain high quality
 - Happy doctors are better doctors
 - Our communities cannot afford to lose doctors who would otherwise continue in family medicine
 - The context of family medicine, rather than its content, is often the key issue in reduced morale
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Message for governments on financial savings

- **Need to heed the evidence for supporting greater investment in primary care and how investment will result in longer term savings**

Government-funded programs in primary care must be well coordinated with minimal bureaucratic red tape and focus on the services being delivered and the resulting health outcomes and meeting local community needs



- While implementing each of these and other innovations, we must ensure that equity of access remains a fundamental principle of our work as family doctors





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Asia Pacific Regional Conference 1–5 October 2008

Hosted by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
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