



MEDIA RELEASE
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HELPING PRE-VOCATIONAL DOCTORS TO CHOOSE GENERAL PRACTICE

General Practice Registrars Australia Ltd. in collaboration with the General Practice Education and Training Ltd (GPET) as a founding partner, today announces the launch of **GP COMPASS**. GP COMPASS's primary role is to function as a General Practice interest group, seeking to promote the benefits of a life and career in General Practice to pre-vocational doctors within the hospital system. GP COMPASS will be administered by GPRRA and supported through a funding grant from GPET.

GP COMPASS was launched by Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, Assoc. Prof. Simon Wilcock, Chair of GPET, Dr Belinda Guest, Chair of GPRRA and Ms Elina Gourlas, Chair of the General Practice Students Network (GPSN) at the Breathing NEWLIFE into General Practice Conference organized by GPRRA and GPSN in Parliament House, Canberra.

"Building on from the success of the General Practice Students Network (GPSN), GPRRA is keen to keep its focus on promoting General Practice amongst pre-vocational doctors. The GP Compass model is based on peer to peer interaction offering accurate and real life information about career options in General Practice in a co-ordinated and supportive fashion", said Dr Belinda Guest.

"Our research indicates that word of mouth and peer to peer communication are big influencers on pre-vocational doctors choosing a specialisation. So together with GPRRA, the program aims to inform pre-vocational doctors of what General Practice is really like and encourage them to train and become GPs", stated Assoc. Prof. Wilcock.

Ms. Elina Gourlas, an enthusiastic final year medical student who has already committed to a career in General Practice, commented "The GP COMPASS initiative is a natural next step from GPSN which now has over 3000 members across Australia. These students have already expressed an interest in General Practice and would have potentially been lost in the hospital system where information about General Practice is limited. GP Compass will allow them to keep their connection with General Practice and have a guided progression to their careers in General Practice. It will also allow for greater exposure to General Practice for those junior doctors who had never previously considered it as a vocational option".

"Initiatives such as GP COMPASS will facilitate informed career decision-making by increasing the exposure of hospital doctors to the specialty of General Practice", added Dr Guest.

"GP COMPASS will address the biggest gap in attracting doctors into General Practice. The hospital system has long been recognised as the black hole for General Practice. With GP COMPASS we aim to build a strong network of passionate doctors and inspire them to take on the challenge of becoming the front line support to Australian Communities", said Amit Vohra, CEO, GPRRA.

For more information or comment:

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