

General Practice Training in Victoria

Lisa Burns, GP Registrar

Where can you learn skills that will make you employable virtually anywhere in the world and also get all the fresh farm eggs you can eat? General practice of course; just ask GP registrar Lisa Burns. Lisa says she has always been keen to travel and work overseas in development areas. In fact asked where she'd like to be in five years time, although a hard question to answer right now, Lisa says: "I'd like to think that at some point I have the opportunity to work overseas again in a developing country or perhaps in a refugee clinic here in Melbourne. I think this work is incredibly rewarding as the people you meet can be quite inspirational. As a GP there is the opportunity to have many different 'seasons' in your career as the profession is quite adaptable which is wonderful."

"General practice provides good 'generalist' training and I am able to focus on particular areas that would be helpful for work overseas, such as HIV medicine. I like the fact I can sub-specialise in particular areas of interest – such as women's health, HIV medicine, whatever you like really!" There are lots of other things Lisa likes about General Practice including, as a young mum, the flexibility to adjust working hours to suit family life and other interests.

The support provided as a GP Registrar is also important in the training phase. "As a registrar it is always good to have the back up of your supervisor to discuss more difficult cases with. I have felt well supported as a GP registrar."

But the very best thing about general practice, she says, is direct patient contact. "General practice provides a good variety of patients and experiences and also allows us to really get to know the patients and their families."

And that's where the eggs come in.

"Most of my highlights as a GP registrar are particular patients that stick in my mind," Lisa says.

"Whether it be my patient with chronic pain who we managed to wean opiates and return her to a somewhat normal life or the patient with alcohol abuse that managed to actually change her lifestyle and feel 'fantastic ... better than I've felt in years' or the little old lady that hugged me and cried when I left my country placement."



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