

Experience General Practice

PGPPP Post Profile



Feeder Hospital

Practice

Year Level

PGPPP Provider

Austin Health

West Heidelberg Medical Centre

PGY2+

VMA

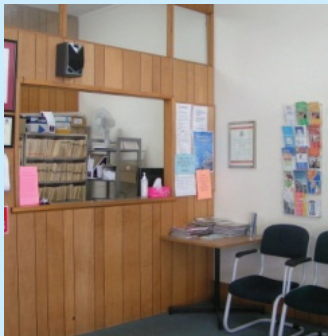


About our Practice

The practice has three experienced, vocationally registered GPs, a full-time Registrar, and a pre-vocational GP placement program (PGPPP) doctor, on rotation from the Austin Hospital. The surgery is situated near to the Repatriation Hospital, in an area that originally consisted largely of Housing Commission houses and flats. Many of the dwellings are now privately owned and an increasing number of the older houses have been demolished and replaced with new dwellings. Originally many of the patients were socio-economically deprived and most were Australian-born but there are growing numbers of young, more affluent families moving into the area. There are also a number of people from Somalia and some refugees. The Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre are nearby and a large number of private specialists are in the area. Most allied health services are available locally.

The practice sees a very wide range of general practice problems. We have an appointment system with bookings usually at 15 minute intervals. The experienced GPs normally see about 18- 25 patients per day but the PGPPP doctor is usually only booked to see patients every 30 minutes. There is also dedicated teaching time with both supervisors (alternating) and corridor teaching.

The practice philosophy is to provide a high quality, holistic health care and, at the same time, ensure the doctors do not suffer from unreasonable stress or risk of burn out.



Why our practice is part of PGPPP

Our practice is part of the PGPPP program because we see General Practice as a key area of health care and we would like to improve the communication between the hospital system and General Practice. Therefore we think it is important to expose hospital doctors to a positive General Practice experience. This will enable them to see if it is an area of medicine that will appeal to them in the future. It will also give them a better awareness of the role of General Practice in the medical care of patients and particularly how it combines with hospital care to provide optimal care for patients.

The HMO Experience

The PGPPP doctor is seen as another adult learner and valued colleague. We provide them with their own consulting room to enable them to feel comfortable in their working environment. We encourage the training doctor to reflect on their practice of medicine and explore different ways of dealing with problems, under the supervision of experienced GPs.

The surgery hours are 9.00am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 5.00pm weekdays and 9.00am to 11.00am Saturday. The practice offers home visits within surgery hours but the PGPPP doctor will not do any home visits and we are covered by the locum service after hours.

Practice Details

Address	64 The Mall
Suburb	West Heidelberg
Phone	9459 5400
Practice Manager	Ruth Owen
Supervisor Contacts	Drs Janelle Francis & Tim Owen





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Testimonials



PGPPP Doctor

"I chose a PGPPP rotation as I saw it as an excellent opportunity to be introduced to General Practice. I had heard a lot of positive feedback from my friends who had undertaken this rotation and I wanted to experience it myself. The working hours were also very appealing as there is no weekend work or night shifts which meant I had more time outside work for my private life.

There are many things that I enjoyed in this rotation and the job satisfaction I got as a doctor was incredible. Having my own patients meant I developed good doctor/patient relationships over the time at the practice. There was also a lot of respect from patients and staff. The thrill of not knowing what my next patient presented with was amazing. The patient range could be from a small child for immunisation or suffering from asthma, to a young girl requesting Implanon insertion, or a 70 year old for a health care plan to anyone with a mystery rash.

The supervision I received during my PGPPP was incredible. Most of the time I found myself taking independent decisions but there were times I felt frustrated and lost and my supervisors were always very happy to guide me through the situation. I also had 1 hour of one-on-one teaching every week which included discussion of a topic of my choice, previously seen patients, home visits and even nursing home visits.

PGPPP has doubled my enthusiasm to do GP Training in the future. I strongly recommend PGPPP. It makes you understand the bridge between specialist care and primary care. For anyone doing a PGPPP I suggest making a learning plan at the beginning of the rotation with the help of your supervisor. This will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses and help you focus on areas you need more help with and experience in."

Laajwanthi Jaiprakash

Hospital



The Austin values the importance and role of General Practice in patient care and this rotation offers our HMO's a better awareness of the variety, nature and complexity of problems that GPs manage (and the limitations of General Practice). Furthermore, it provides our HMO's with additional career options; exposure to a speciality that junior doctors in a tertiary referral centre do not traditionally experience.

The HMO's who have participated in this Program have found it richly rewarding. It is often their first experience of working independently and their confidence and clinical knowledge increases under the supportive care of their supervisors. The rotations have given the doctors a greater understanding of how they can work better with GPs in the ongoing care of their hospital patients. Furthermore, it has provided them a greater understanding of the importance of discharge planning and communication.