

## Prevocational General Practice Placements Program

A desire to experience “life as a doctor outside the protective walls of the hospital” was a driver in Violeta Ananieva’s choice to do a PGPPP rotation. “PGPPP gave me a real opportunity to experience what general practice was about. It gave me the chance to be a doctor on my own, take on responsibilities and make sole decisions about my patients’ management,” Violeta says.

“Coolaroo Clinic is a fantastic practice with great doctors and brilliant administrative staff which made things a breeze,” says Violeta. “Coolaroo Clinic is a fairly big practice so even though I had two supervisors listed, in fact I had a lot more. Everyone there was fantastic about answering my many questions and pointing me in the right direction. There was always a more senior doctor available and each had their own area of expertise, which allowed me to broaden my knowledge in many different fields.”

There was a wide range of patients at Coolaroo from families with young children to the elderly with chronic disease. “I loved the fact that I didn’t know what was going to come through my door next. It keeps you on your toes the whole day and it brings a lot of excitement to your day,” she says.

A highlight for Violeta was getting to know her patients. “One lovely 34 year old man came to see me for a check up and over the course of my three months there I treated his whole family. I even referred him to my fiancée for his orthopaedic surgery after he sustained a really bad bicep tendon rupture post a wrestling match. He was so grateful. When I left the clinic his whole family came to thank me with flowers and were keen to know which practice I was going to next.”

Violeta says she encountered situations that she hadn’t experienced in a hospital setting. Dealing with “a wide range of socio-economic classes and culture issues” was challenging. She also learnt the many roles of the GP, “being a teacher, a confidante, sometimes a psychologist and mostly a patient advocate” to name a few. Violeta sees these roles as a big part of what general practice is all about.

“I had an interest in general practice to begin with but I wanted to test my maturity and knowledge. The placement cemented my decision to go into general practice and gave me a big appreciation for the complexity of this career path and the challenges that await me,” says Violeta. “My PGPPP rotation was the best rotation I had done so far.”

“I would definitely recommend a PGPPP rotation to anyone if they are looking for something a little bit different and challenging. It certainly opens your eyes to the diversity of general practice and gives you an appreciation of all the GPs out there,” she says.

Violeta has some tips for doctors considering doing a GP placement, “have fun, be open minded, be keen to learn and be humble with your patients.”

Doctor	Dr Violeta Ananieva
Practice	Coolaroo Clinic
Hospital	Northern Hospital
PGPPP Provider	VMA



Dr Violeta Ananieva

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