

# General Practice Training in Victoria

## William Le, GP Registrar

Dr William Le, now in his final year as a GP Registrar, says the ability to make a difference is one of the appealing aspects of General Practice. Dr Le trains with VMA General Practice Training.

"The advice about how to prevent health problems comes from a GP, not a heart surgeon," Dr Le says. "If you are getting advice from a surgeon, usually it means the damage is already done. I like the old cliché, prevention is better than cure and as a GP you have a real role in that."

Dr Le, who was born and educated in Australia after his parents moved to Australia from Vietnam, first had thoughts of specialising in Emergency Medicine due to the diversity of work.

However, once he married the balance of family and work was skewed heavily towards work in the hospital environment – and besides, he was often seeing the end result and was not in a position to prevent illness or injury. General Practice provides a much better work and life balance, while at the same time offering a challenging variety of medicine.

The shortage of general practitioners, especially Australian trained ones, creates many opportunities.

"Choosing to do GP training gave me more freedom. Through the hospital years you are told what rotations you do, where you have to go to do them, when you have to take your holidays.

"Suddenly as a GP registrar I was able to determine where I went to work, what my hours would be like, and that I wanted to go overseas from this date to this date without having to negotiate it half a year in advance. These benefits will not just last while you are in training but throughout your career as a GP."

Dr Le sees that more and more of his colleagues are also recognising General Practice as a speciality in its own right.

"Twenty years ago it used to be almost the default career choice; if you couldn't decide what to do you fell into general practice.

"Now people are choosing it, because they see the importance and the benefits."

Certainly Dr Le appreciates the lifestyle offered by general practice. The hours are structured, so he has more control over his personal life while still establishing a solid career. "I know I can be home to have dinner with my wife every night," he says.



*William Le, VMA GPT, GP registrar,*

*"The variety of medicine is an important consideration, as is the continuity of care, when considering a career in General Practice."*

