

# GP OBSTETRICS THINK TANK 2017

## OUTCOMES



The Think Tank presentations and participant discussions will be used by the GP Obstetrics Western Australian Advisory Group to influence the future of GP obstetrics in Western Australia. The key findings from the 2017 GP Obstetrics Think Tank and recommendations are highlighted below;

### URBAN MENTORING PROGRAM

#### Finding 1

Maintain funding for GP obstetrics mentoring placements in the outer metropolitan area. Benefits of urban placements include enabling RANZCOG diplomates to maintain their skills prior to moving to a rural location or providing locum services for rural GP obstetricians.

#### Recommendation

- Potential urban candidates to be identified from WA General Practice Education and Training Limited (WAGPET) and King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) data and case managed.

### NETWORKING

#### Finding 2

Networking is vital to GPOs for support and education. Establish networking connections throughout obstetric training and clinical practice

#### Recommendations

- WAGPET registrars and KEMH RMOs who are interested in a career as a rural GP obstetrician to be connected to GPOs via the GP Obstetrics Network (WAGPON).
- Development of a WAGPON website containing information on GPO training pathways, practice locations and support, with links to relevant organisations.
- Development of a map of urban and rural general practices that support general practice obstetrics.
- Facilitation of communication for mentees on the GPO mentoring program e.g. Facebook or email group.

### GPO REGISTRARS

#### Finding 3

That attendees at GP obstetrics workshops are provided with current information on WAGPET requirements for GPO registrars.

#### Recommendation

- WAGPET to provide GPOWAAG members with updates on changes to requirements.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

### Finding 4

Foster family friendly working arrangements to ensure that GPOs maintain their procedural skills while growing their own families.

### Recommendation

- Promote examples of family friendly working arrangements.

## DELAY IN ISSUING DRANZCOG CERTIFICATION

### Finding 5

Revisit the delay in DRANZCOG certificates being issued to successful candidates. It is difficult for diplomates in rural locations to continue their procedural practise while waiting for certification.

### Recommendation

- Nominated RANZCOG Committee Member to follow up with RANZCOG.

## PROMOTION OF GP OBSTETRICS

### Finding 6

GPOs are perceived as a dying breed in the wider community. There is a need to increase the profile of GP obstetrics and the vital role that GPOs play in rural Western Australia.

### Recommendation

- Promote examples of general practice obstetrics.

## CREDENTIALLING

### Finding 7

WA Country Health Service credentialling is an issue for GPOs in some rural locations.

### Recommendation

- Identify areas where credentialling is a concern and the reasons why. GPOs may consider modifying their working arrangements to work as an employee of WACHS rather than providing VMO services where possible.

## GPO LOCUMS

### Finding 8

Establish a pool of locum GPOs, particularly GPOs who have spent time in a rural area.

### Recommendation

- Explore establishment of coordination of a GPO locum service.

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## GP OBSTETRICS THINK TANK 2018

### Finding 9

The 2017 GP Obstetrics Think Tank was a success.

### Recommendation

- The GP obstetrics Think Tank to become an annual event aligned to the Rural Health West Annual Conference.

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## CONCLUSION

There is a genuine need for and a great deal of optimism regarding the future of GP obstetrics in rural Western Australia. Experienced doctors continue to be willing mentors for less experienced GPOs and there is a healthy number of young and enthusiastic practitioners to ensure the continuation of a viable rural GP obstetrics workforce. The GPOWAAG will continue to encourage and guide GP obstetric progress in outer metropolitan and Rural Western Australia.