

OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR

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Subject: POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (PMCWA)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In August 2003, the Minister for Health established the Postgraduate Medical Council of Western Australia (PMCWA) to provide leadership for early postgraduate medical education and training in Western Australia.

Members of the PMCWA are representatives of the stakeholder organisations involved in the support, training, supervision and administration of pre-vocational doctors and other non-vocational medical officers. Membership of the PMCWA is via Ministerial appointment.

The PMCWA Secretariat sits within the jurisdiction of Department of Health. As a Ministerial Council, the PMCWA is required to comply with the provisions of any relevant statutes, regulations, by-laws and requirements of the Department of Health. The PMCWA reports to the Minister for Health via the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, as approved by the Minister for Health, the PMCWA has delegated responsibility and authority for the following areas.

- Development of guidelines and protocols for the education and training of pre-vocational doctors and other medical practitioners not in vocational training programs.
- Setting standards for pre-vocational training positions within health services.
- Accrediting and monitoring medical training positions for pre-vocational doctors: postgraduate years 1, 2 and 3/plus (PGY1, PGY2 and PGY3/+).
- Monitoring and advising on the supply and demand for the pre-vocational workforce in Western Australia.
- Supporting clinicians and other professionals involved in the education and training of pre-vocational and other non-vocational doctors.
- Identifying and advising on matters that impact on the health and welfare of pre-vocational and other non-vocational doctors.

In its delegated role, the PMCWA will determine the curriculum content and training requirements for pre-vocational doctors, the requisite level of supervision required for such doctors working in training posts within health services, and the clinical and procedural skills which such doctors should be aiming to acquire while training in these posts. It is essential that early postgraduate medical education and training provide a sound general basis from which specific vocational training may proceed.

Section 11(1) of the *Medical Act 1894 (as amended)* provides that a person is entitled to be registered as a medical practitioner if the person has successfully completed a period of internship or supervised clinical practice as required by the Medical Board of Western Australia (Board). The Board supports all PGY1 doctors completing that training in an accredited training position and the PMCWA undertaking the accreditation process.

The Department of Health requires that all health services seeking to employ pre-vocational doctors meet the accreditation standards published by the PMCWA. This will be monitored through periodic on-site assessment by PMCWA appointed professionals. The aim of the accreditation process is to ensure that all health services employing pre-vocational doctors offer sufficient experience, education, training, supervision, assessment and evaluation, support (including resources) and safe working environment to enable pre-vocational doctors to meet the objectives of their training program. Failure to respond adequately to the findings and recommendations of the accreditation review will result in the withdrawal and re-allocation of such doctors.

In its delegated role, the PMCWA has responsibility for monitoring and advising the Department of Health on the supply and demand for medical graduates. To assist this process, the PMCWA will regularly collect data and information from health services regarding the numbers and placement of pre-vocational doctors. The PMCWA will also monitor and advise on the issues that impact on the selection, appointment and retention of pre-vocational doctors.

Mike Daube
DIRECTOR GENERAL