



First Nations General Practice Training Committee

Communique – 10 September 2024

The First Nations General Practice Training Committee (the Committee) met virtually on 10 September 2024. The meeting was chaired by Dr Dawn Casey.

In this meeting, the Committee focussed its discussion on options to best use the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Salary Support Program (SSP) to support GP trainees working in First Nations health settings. The Committee considered the uptake of Salary Support across different regions and a forecast of future SSP expenditure for 2024 and 2025. It was also noted that there is a separately funded arrangement the Rural Generalist Training Scheme (RGTS) pathway whereby eligible facilities can access salary support-type payments in 2024 and 2025.

The Committee requested further data to continue analysis of SSP usage and how to improve uptake. The Committee agreed that a better understanding why some facilities are not fully utilising the salary support program was a priority. The Committee noted there are non-monetary challenges that accessing salary support does not resolve to attract a registrar (housing, schooling, partner employment, cost of living). The Chair advised that National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), GP Colleges together with the Joint Colleges Training Service (JCTS), and the Department will work collaboratively to define the scope and progress the consultation.

The Indigenous General Practice Training Network (IGPTN) Chair, Dr Josie Guyer, presented on IGPTN's purpose, goals, vision and activities. The IGPTN plays a critical supportive role to First Nation GP trainees through a range of activities it provides such as: professional workshops, peer networking, cultural activities, preparation and feedback for clinical exams, online study groups and trauma-informed study sessions. IGPTN's view on the future of the First Nations workforce states they would like to engage with local universities to encourage more medical students to become GP trainees. The Committee found the presentation and discussion valuable in understanding IGPTN's achievements and the support activities they provide to First Nations GP registrars.

The Committee received a briefing from the Department on the Single Employer Model (SEM) trials with an overview of the SEM evaluation and the First Nations-led SEM trial. The SEM trials allow GP trainees to be employed by one employer throughout their training rotations. They support easier accrual and access to employment entitlements and increase certainty of training arrangements. The Committee discussed the potential of SEM to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander GP registrars and to strengthen the GP workforce supporting First Nations communities.

The Committee is scheduled to meet again in November 2024.

More information can be found at [First Nations General Practice Training Committee](#)