

GP placements in rural, regional, and remote practices: perspectives of supervision teams

Samia Toukhsati^{1,2,3} Rebecca Kippen², Carla Taylor^{1,2}, Simon Morgan^{1,4}, Lawrie McArthur⁴

¹ General Practice Supervision Australia

² Monash University

³ Melbourne University

⁴ Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Introduction

Attracting and retaining rural, regional, and remote practices as teaching and learning hubs for medical students, junior doctors, and registrars is critical for safeguarding future workforce sustainability. As demand for clinical placement opportunities in general practice increases to meet the healthcare needs of the future, it is essential to advance understanding of the perspectives of supervisors and practice teams involved in supervising/hosting medical students and junior doctors across rural, regional, and remote training practices and explore factors linked to intentions to continue in the future.

Methods

Invitations to participate in GPSA's online national survey titled "ENGAGE 2024 - Building a better future together" were emailed to GPSA members and advertised in social media, eNews, and on GPSA's online community platform. Consenting respondents anonymously completed questions about their sociodemographics and supervision experience, their attitudes, perceived norms, and barriers relating to supervising/hosting learners on placement, and intentions to supervise learners in the future.

Results

Data collection opened in April 2024 and will conclude in May 2024. On closure of the survey, descriptive analyses will be used to explore the socio-demographic and professional characteristics of the sample.

Research questions that will be used to guide data analyses include:

1. What are the attitudes and perceived norms of supervisors and practice teams towards supervising/hosting medical students, junior doctors, and registrars on clinical GP placements in rural, regional, and remote training practices?
2. What, if any, differences exist in supervisor/practice team attitudes towards different learner cohorts? Are these consistent across different practice roles and regions?
3. What are the key factors associated with intentions to supervise/host medical students, junior doctors, and registrars in the future? Are these consistent across different practice roles and regions?

Discussion

This study addresses an important gap in the literature by focusing on how placement experiences of medical students, junior doctors, and registrars influence the retention of supervisors and practice teams in general practice training. Outcomes from this study will provide new data that will advance understanding of the attitudes, perceived norms, and barriers towards the provision of clinical GP placements in rural, regional, and remote training practices. In doing so, this study will identify key targets for optimising and supporting high quality clinical GP placements for all parties, safeguarding training pipeline for the future.

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