

Supervision intentions: identifying and activating enablers

Samia Toukhsati^{1,2,3} Rebecca Kippen², Carla Taylor^{1,2}, Simon Morgan¹, Rebecca Lock⁴

¹ General Practice Supervision Australia

² Monash University

³ Melbourne University

⁴ Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Introduction

Maintaining high quality supervision and training in general practice is essential to safeguard the future of primary care in Australia. Attracting and retaining GPs to supervision roles is a critical component of GP and rural generalist (RG) training to ensure its ongoing sustainability. With over 20% of GP supervisors approaching retirement over the next 5 years, it is essential to advance understanding about the factors that predict GPs intentions to supervise in the future to inform GPSA's advocacy and policy reform agenda.

Method

Invitations to participate in GPSA's online National Supervision Survey titled "Reflecting on the past...looking to the future" were advertised in social media, eNews, industry conferences, and on GPSA's online community platform. Consenting respondents anonymously completed questions about their sociodemographics and supervision experience, their attitudes, perceived norms, perceived barriers and intentions to supervise in the future. Respondents were also asked about their values, wellbeing and selfcare practices.

Results

Data collection opened in April 2023 and will conclude in June 2023. Preliminary findings from 214 participants involved in GP training show good representation across sociodemographic factors, state/territory, and metro/non-metro regions. GP supervisors reported moderately positive attitudes towards supervising and perceived pressure from GP colleagues to supervise GP/RG registrars. Preliminary data suggest that approximately 50% of GP supervisors thought their capacity to supervise was reduced by financial constraints, personal commitments and lack of time, but enabled by access to supervision support and resources, and the opportunity/confidence to supervise. Fewer than 50% of GP supervisors intended to supervise for at least the next 5 years. Preliminary results suggest that over 70% of the sample was experiencing burnout and fewer than 50% practiced daily balance selfcare. On closure of the survey, regression modelling will identify key factors that predict intentions to supervise GP/RG registrars in the future.

Discussion

Preliminary results from GPSA's 2023 National Supervision Survey suggest that attitudes towards supervision are generally positive, but concerningly, fewer than 50% of GP supervisors intend to supervise for at least the next 5 years. Outcomes from regression modelling will advance understanding of the role of psychosocial factors in predicting intentions to supervise in the future. It is expected that outcomes will identify key targets for educational and policy reform to increase the supervision workforce and safeguard the future sustainability of general practice in Australia.

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