

Fixing the leaky general practice training pipeline: identifying placement barriers and enablers

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Background

High quality placement experiences in general practice are instrumental in attracting medical students and junior doctors to general practice as a speciality of choice. The experience of a positive placement for the supervisor and practice team inspires them to provide more learning opportunities, which may in turn influence that learner's career decisions. Advancing understanding of the attitudes held by supervisors' and practice teams towards learners on placement in general practice is important to optimise this cycle.

Aim

To explore the attitudes of supervisors and practice teams towards supervising/hosting medical students and junior doctors in general practice and the perceived norms and barriers influencing their intentions to continue in the future.

Methods

Invitations to participate in the General Practice Supervision Australia (GPSA) annual 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 socio-demographics 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 occurred in April-May 2024. Descriptive analyses will be used to explore the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample. Repeated measures ANOVA will be used to evaluate differences in supervisor/practice team attitudes across learner groups. Regression modelling will be used to explore factors that predict intentions to supervise/host learners in the future.

Discussion

Attracting and retaining medical students and junior doctors to general practice as a speciality of choice is crucial to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the Australian primary care. Outcomes from this study will advance understanding of the attitudes supervisors and practice teams have towards learners on placement in general practice, enabling the identification of key targets to optimise and support high quality placement experiences.

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