

# Rural Procedural Interns – A Career Pathway



**Vision:** *"Dedicated to Health"*  
**Mission:** *"We Care For You"*

## Why do we need Interns?

- **Securing services for our local communities**
- Find a viable option that increases GP capacity to support rural hospitals and local clinics
- Demonstrating there is a rewarding and viable career path for rural proceduralist GPs
- An alternative model that provides emergency capacity in the 75 or so rural hospitals without funded emergency departments
- The development of a rural career path that is professionally and financially viable



## What did we Do?

- Partnered with DHS to explore the possibilities
- Located Metro hospitals who were prepared to provide intern recruitment
- Resolved the technical problems – accreditation, insurance etc
- Located a funding source and developed models that benefitted participating GPs
- Set up a high quality learning experience with quality supervision
- Invested 4 years to get here



## Outcomes

- GSHS and BCRH are accredited through PMCV for intern training for 3 years
- A relationship with 2 metro hospitals for the supply of interns
- Interns allocated from the start of 2008 at GSHS and BCRH – selection of the right candidates is crucial
- The ability to expand year levels immediately – no restrictions other than cost and effort



## Costs

- Significant funding is available through the Commonwealth
- But... it will cost – our estimates indicate \$30k pa per EFT – working on making this breakeven
- A viable business model still needs to be established – training will cost agencies
- On the positive side – the GP clinics will at worst break even – should show a compelling business case
- Structure of contractual arrangements with GPs is important



## The Future

- The current registrar training scheme for rural practices is not effective in replacing existing/pending gaps
- Urgently need to expand/replace the procedural skill base before it's irrelevant
- ED service provision is rapidly becoming “nice to have”
- Structurally the Victorian public health service cannot cope with diminished rural procedures
- We have very limited time to address these issues



## Our Vision

- Interns are a starting point – they are not the solution
- We intend to provide options for graduate doctors to train as rural proceduralists for 5 years post graduation
- Every placement and year level is expected to be a 50/50 sharing arrangement with local GPs
- Progressively we will build capacity in the hospitals and in our local GP clinics
- Develop links with tertiary bodies and other accrediting agencies to develop a qualification that recognises these graduates as rural specialists with access to the higher Medicare rebates

