

GENERAL PRACTICE ANAESTHESIA



DR FRED ROSEWARNE
IMGS/AON AND GP LIAISON OFFICER
VICTORIAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

While administration of anaesthesia by general practitioner anaesthetists (GPAs) is widely practised outside metropolitan and major regional hospitals Australia-wide, the relatively shorter travelling distances in Victoria have facilitated development of some initiatives in both training and continuing education.

Following the cessation of examinations conducted under the auspices of the Joint Consultative Committee on Anaesthesia (JCCA), the supervisors of training from a group of Victorian hospitals felt that some form of examination would be worthwhile.

The aim was to provide a standardised assessment across the broad range of Victorian hospitals involved with GPA training. These hospitals ranged from outer metropolitan hospitals such as the Northern Hospital in outer metropolitan Melbourne to smaller non-ANZCA accredited hospitals such as Hamilton in western Victoria. This year Ballarat Base Hospital held the first such examination in Victoria, which was undertaken by a group of GPA trainees from across Victoria. This year, expansion of this to involve most of the Victorian GPA trainees is planned.

Another Victorian initiative are refresher programs, such as the one run by Ballarat Base Hospital, which allow GPAs from across Victoria to work under the supervision of specialist anaesthetists

in a major regional hospital to provide upskilling opportunities. These were pioneered at Ballarat more than 10 years ago by former director of anaesthesia, Dr John Oswald, OAM, and continue under his direction with a waiting list for attendees.

Joint educational meetings such as the Australian Society of Anaesthetists' Victorian Country Meeting and the Rural Special Interest Group meeting provide local and national opportunities for all anaesthetists to meet and learn, renewing old friendships and making new ones, with the common background of enjoying the benefits of rural and regional anaesthetic practice.

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