



## **PRIMARY CARE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **Tutorials for GPs in Residential Aged Care Facilities**

With the continuing surge in medical knowledge it is essential that GPs keep abreast of advances in clinical practice and scientific information to enable them to operate more effectively in the fast changing medical field. Under the Aged Care MedicarePlus Initiative the Division has funding to provide GPs with further up-skilling in the care of older people living in residential aged care. To address this, the Division is offering GPs the opportunity to participate in the Primary Care in Residential Aged Care Education Program.

#### **Aims**

- To increase GPs clinical knowledge, skills and confidence in the management of patients in residential aged care.
- To promote an integrated approach to clinical problem solving in residential aged care through peer review, self assessment and reflection.
- To improve communication links between GPs and other health service providers.
- To develop GPs experience and understanding of the needs of older people living in RACFs.

#### **Learning Format**

The Primary Care in Residential Aged Care Education Program focuses on learning in the clinical setting. Clinical teaching in the local residential aged care facilities will allow for a combination of theory and clinical application.

The Program will use case studies as a teaching tool to illustrate the clinical approaches to improving care for older people with particular clinical syndromes. The emphasis of the tutorials will be problem based, whereby clinical challenges are presented and discussed with an expert in the field, for example a geriatrician.

The Primary Care in Residential Aged Care Education Program uses the small groups learning concept to encourage active participation by attending GPs. Each tutorial will have a maximum of five (5) GPs, which includes the GP facilitator, and a specialist. The tutorial will be held at lunch time for one (1) hour. Participants will be required to provide the facilitator with a completed evaluation at the end of each tutorial.

The Aged Care Panel GP identifying a case study for discussion is required to facilitate the tutorial, gain consent from the patient/person responsible, obtain permission from the manager of the residential aged care facility, arrange for the specialist to attend and notify the Division's Aged Care Program Officer of the case study.

#### **Frequency of Program**

A minimum of 2 tutorials per year will be available.

#### **Continuing Professional Development Points**

The Education Program will attract 2 Group 2 RACGP CPD points per hour.

#### **Evaluation of Program**

The tutorials will be evaluated by the attending GPs through completion of an evaluation which will measure post GP knowledge, skills, confidence and behaviour. GP satisfaction and opportunities for program improvement will also be measured.

Aged Care Panel GP Facilitators will also provide feedback to the Aged Care Program Officer following each tutorial to facilitate ongoing improvement of the program.