



MEDIA RELEASE

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE TRAINING HIGHLY
COMMENDED**



30 July 2007

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has commended the training of emergency physicians provided by the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine after a comprehensive assessment of the College's programs and processes.

Specialists in emergency medicine require a broad base of knowledge, skills and experience covering almost all facets of medicine. Emergency physicians need the knowledge and skills to prevent, diagnose and manage acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury in patients of all ages across the full spectrum of physical and behavioural disorders. Emergency medicine also covers pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency medical systems.

To be granted College Fellowship, which leads to independent practice as an emergency physician, doctors must complete the College's five-year training program while working in College-accredited hospitals. Because they need a broad base of knowledge and skills, doctors training to be emergency physicians also gain experience outside the emergency department in areas such as paediatrics and in critical care. On-the-job training is under the clinical supervision of Fellows of the College with educational supervision by trained Directors of Emergency Medicine Training. This is supplemented by teaching sessions, personal study and short courses.

The AMC found that the College's training program produces high quality specialists in emergency medicine, who are highly regarded by health services.

The AMC accreditation report commends the College's professional approach to education and training, and the contribution it has made to improved standards of medical care. The report also praises the training the College provides for its Directors of Emergency Medicine Training, and the program it provides to assist practising emergency physicians to maintain their standards of professional practice.

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The assessment by the AMC expert team included an extensive program of site visits, written stakeholder feedback and comprehensive documentation from the College. The team visited 17 hospitals that provide emergency medicine training in Australia and New Zealand, interviewed Directors of Emergency Medicine Training and canvassed views of doctors in training through surveys and interview. The team also sought submissions from external stakeholders such as health departments, professional bodies in the medical profession and the university medical schools. The Executive Summary of the team's detailed report (available on the AMC website at www.amc.org.au) makes a range of recommendations to improve the already high quality training and assessment.

The President of the College, Dr Andrew Singer, welcomed the AMC's decision.

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