



UQ General Practice Newsletter 2025.1

Welcome to the first UQ General Practice newsletter for 2025. Thank you for your continued support providing clinical placements for our UQ medical students. This year we have our second cohort of Year 2 students in general practice for one day per week across 14-weeks as part of UQ's new medical program. We also have our final cohort of Year 3 / 4 students in general practice for 2-3 days per week across 6-weeks as we teach-out the old program. Preparations are well underway for 2026 when we introduce the first cohort of Year 4 students into general practice for 2-3 days per week across 8-weeks as part of the new medical program. From 2026, the Year 4 students will all have their GP placement in the first half of the year, and the Year 2 students have their placement in the second half of the year. This will be a substantial change for practices, and we plan to support implementation of this great opportunity to expose UQ medical students to the wonderful learning experiences in general practice. As part of this support, we are introducing monthly lunchtime zoom sessions (12:30-1pm) where we provide updates, teaching tips and are present to answer your questions. We look forward to meeting you at these zoom sessions – bring your sandwich.

Katharine Wallis

Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit
The University of Queensland Medical School



Upcoming events

Lunchtime Webinars for GP Clinical Teachers

In 2025 we are running monthly lunchtime webinars to support you, our valued GP Clinical Teachers, providing updates and teaching tips, with time for Q&A.

Time: 12:30-1pm

Day: The first Wednesday of each month, starting 2nd April!

Zoom Link: Click [here](#)

This link will be the same for all Lunchtime Webinars. Invitations will also be sent to all practices.

GPCU Research seminars

Do you have an interest in research? You are welcome to attend our Research Seminars, held via Zoom on fortnightly Wednesdays from 12 to 1pm. Hear from local and visiting researchers about a range of topics. Upcoming seminars include (*subject to change*):

12th March	Assoc Prof Rebecca Olsen	Qualitative health research methods
26th March	Alice Pender (Senior Audiologist & PhD candidate)	Improving diagnosis and management of hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults

Recent events

2024 Annual GP Dinner and Awards Evening

Thank you to all the GPs who joined us for the 2024 Annual GP Dinner and Awards Evening in November. The evening was very enjoyable, with great discussions. Congratulations to all the GP Clinical Teacher Award nominees. The comments that were read on the evening were heartfelt and authentic. Each comment was submitted by students who took extra time to let us know how much they appreciated you.



January Zoom Webinar: What's New in 2025?

Thank you to the 43 GPs who joined us for this Zoom session in January. A VOPP containing information from this session will be uploaded on to our [website](#) soon.

Staff Update

Dr Chloe Tyson

Chloe is a final year GP registrar, currently undertaking an academic post in the General Practice Clinical Unit. Chloe will be interviewing GPs about their experiences using the RELEASE antidepressant tapering plans (developed and tested in the RELEASE trial, led by Professor Katharine Wallis), in practice. Chloe will also be involved in teaching, examination and creating resources for UQ medical students. In her clinical work Chloe has worked across a range of different GP practices and has a strong interest in lifestyle medicine. Prior to GP she worked largely in paediatrics at the Queensland Children's Hospital. Outside of work Chloe is a Mum of two boys and will soon welcome her third child.



To read more about other members of our team, please view the [UQ General Practice website](#).

Teaching

GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources

We provide resources to support you as you teach UQ MD students on General Practice placements, including:

- the *Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers*
- *Resources for GP Clinical Teachers*
- and new *VOPPs and other information* added throughout the year

The QR code below will take you directly to the GPCU [Teaching and learning page](#)



Becoming an Academic Title Holder

The University of Queensland values the contributions of health professionals who contribute to the teaching and mentoring of students. These individuals can apply for and be awarded an Academic Title. These titles are awarded for a period of up to five years to health professionals who make significant contributions to The University and are assessed by the relevant organisational unit Heads, Faculty executives and committees commensurate to the level of appointment. For GP Clinical Teachers, this is at the level of Senior Lecturer (and for GP Registrars at the level of Lecturer). In addition to an Academic Title, this also provides access to the vast UQ Library resources and a UQ email address.

Would you like to become an Academic Title Holder (ATH)?

- GP Clinical Teachers are eligible, after completing the application process
- For application instructions, please click [here](#) then click on 'Applying for a UQ Academic Title'.

Are you currently an Academic Title Holder (ATH)?

- Please check the expiry date of your Academic Title
- If the expiry date is soon, you will need to resubmit another application for this to continue
- Please submit your re-application at least one month before the expiry date to ensure continued access to your UQ email address and the UQ Library resources.

Dates for General Practice Placements 2025

Block Placements: Year 3 or 4 students (30 half-day sessions over 6 weeks)		Longitudinal Placements: Year 2 students (1 full-day (2 Sessions) per week for 14 weeks)	
Block 1	13 th January – 22 nd February	First Half	Weeks of 27 th January – 31 st May
Block 2	24 th February – 5 th April		
Block 3	14 th April – 24 th May		
Block 4	23 rd June – 2 nd August	Second Half	Weeks of 23 rd June – 31 st October
Block 5	4 th August – 13 th September		
Block 6	22 nd September – 31 st October		

Rural and Regional Perspectives

The Rural Clinical School has been very busy officially welcoming the inaugural Year 1 MD cohort in Rockhampton (35 students) and Bundaberg (33 students). We are especially excited to welcome the 29 students who are part of the foundation cohort progressing through the [Central Queensland Wide Bay Regional Medical Pathway \(RMP\)](#), a partnership forged between UQ, CQUniversity, and the Central Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services, enabling university students to complete all their undergraduate and postgraduate studies and practical training in the Central Queensland and Wide Bay regions. The students join UQ after completing their 3-year undergraduate [Bachelor of Medical Science \(Pathway to Medicine\)](#) degree with CQUniversity and will spend the next four years in Rockhampton and Bundaberg & Hervey Bay undertaking UQ's postgraduate Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. They will become the first cohort of 'home grown' doctors in 2028; trained exclusively in the Central Queensland and Wide Bay region.

Students reported feeling a mix of nerves and excitement entering the MD program. A student who was born in Rockhampton shared what it meant to him be part of the first cohort of the Regional Medical Pathway, saying "being able to do the whole degree in the region has made the impossible feel possible and I feel lucky to do that while being challenged intellectually and help people in the community where I've been raised."

UQ Rural Clinical School Director, Professor Riitta Partanen, says she felt a great sense of pride to get to this point. "Offering study opportunities across all four years in the region is game changing for those people who might have been interested in medicine but couldn't leave the Central Queensland or Wide Bay community. What we have learnt through our research is the longer students learn and live in our regional centres, the more likely they will connect with community, form a sense of belonging and wish to stay here post-graduation."

The RMP is expected not only to secure long-term, locally-trained workforces, but also to deliver positive, sustained improvement in the health outcomes for the regional, rural and remote communities of Queensland. In 2025, there are approximately 360 students studying across all seven years of the RMP, based in the Central Queensland and Wide Bay region.



Research article in focus

Protective factors for psychological wellbeing: a cross-sectional study of young people attending an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary healthcare service

Discussion with Associate Professor Geoff Spurling:

This paper came about because of a desire to avoid perpetuating the pervasive, negative, discourse regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. It was inspired by two similar papers involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The objective here was to measure associations between protective factors associated with positive psychological outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (aged 15-24 years) living in an urban area. We used health check data at the Inala Indigenous Health Service which was set up and validated as part of Geoff Spurling's PhD project. Our primary outcome was the absence of psychological distress, and using modified Poisson regression, we analysed data from 710 health assessments. We found that 72% of young people were not experiencing depression. Exercise, sport, and absences of marijuana use, smoking cigarettes, no difficulty getting a job, not being homeless, no trouble with the police and not having experiences of violence were associated with an absence of depression. Policy makers, clinicians and health services need to resource and maximise opportunities to access safe accommodation, participate in employment, exercise and play sport, and to avoid marijuana, cigarettes, violence and trouble with the police.

Spurling GK, Askew DA, Hayman NE, Schluter, PJ. Protective factors for psychological wellbeing: a cross-sectional study of young people attending an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary healthcare service. *Aust N Z J Public Health* (in press). Published online January 29, 2025. DOI:10.1016/j.anzph.2024.100218

Recent articles

Delshad P, Ball L, Arab R. Medical certificates: More than just paperwork. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2024;53(11)(supplement):S123-127. DOI:10.31128/AJGP-02-24-7154

Kelly M, Sturman N, Green A, **Ryan C, Shirley B, Chau A**, Preston S, **Jackson C**. Wanted: Nearer peers for teaching and learning in general practice. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2024;53(12)(supplement):S 98-100. DOI: 10.31128/AJGP-04-24-7235

Nasir BF, MacAskill,W, Leedie F, Martin P, Alam K, **Wallis K**, McGrail M, Kondalsamy-Chennakesavan S. Co-creating an Indigenous-led virtual health services model for Indigenous Australians living with chronic disease. *Aust J Rural Health.* 2024. 2025 Feb;33(1):e13206 DOI: 10.1111/ajr.13206

Smith J, Cvejic E, Houssami N, Schonberg MA, Vincent W, Naganathan V, Jansen J, Dodd R, **Wallis K**, McCaffery KJ. Randomized trial of information for older women about cessation of breast cancer screening invitations. *J Gen Int Med.* 2024 Jun;39(8):1332-1341. DOI: 10.1007/s11606-024-08656-3

If you would like to receive a copy of any of these articles, please contact us at

med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

Culture, Community and Inclusivity

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to share your experiences of culture, community and inclusivity, and how this enhances your life or your work in general practice please email a brief paragraph, poem, or image (up to 200 words +/- photo) to med.mdgp@uq.edu.au, for inclusion in a future newsletter.

GPs subscribing to this newsletter

Many GPs have told us they would like to receive this newsletter directly into their own inboxes, to stay up to date with the latest GPCU news on teaching, research and upcoming events.

This email was sent by Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland, Mayne Medical Building, 288

If you, or other GPs in your practice, would like to directly subscribe to this newsletter, please contact us on 07 550 2080 to

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