

Uncoupling of the RACGP Fellowship Examination

The RACGP Fellowship Examination will be uncoupled beginning the first examination cycle in 2009. That is, the Examination will no longer consist of the compulsory sitting of all three segments over a three-month period. For more details, contact Val at MDGP on 4953 4491.

Mental Health Nurse Update

The Division has employed a third full time mental health nurse, because of the very high patient caseload and demand for their services by local GPs. We have recruited a local nurse and he will commence employment on the 20th October. Further details will be provided next week.

Update- Six Psychologists at the Division

The Division recently had Christine Bond, a part time psychologist, resign. Six psychologists at the Division continue to take referrals and are currently seeing your patients. The waiting period for non-urgent patients is currently two weeks. We are intending to recruit another psychologist within the next few months.

Cuts to Visiting Medical Specialist Services

The Australian Government will no longer be providing funding for four of the eleven visiting medical services to Mackay. The following visiting services are likely to cease completely as the specialists involved are no longer being assisted to visit Mackay - ENT, gastroenterology, endocrinology, and one of the cardiology services. Unfortunately the number of visits by the remaining specialists is also likely to be reduced. We have received advice that from 30 June 2009 all Government funding for visiting medical services to Mackay will be stopped. The Division has been using the media to keep patients informed of these changes, and to express GPs frustration at this absurd decision.

VISITING SPECIALISTS – OCTOBER 2008

Dr Franchi – Physician/Geriatrian	13-17 October	Bookings- 4942 1144
Dr Bushell-Guthrie – Plastic & Cosmetic Surgeon	9, 16, 23 October	Bookings- 4942 1144
Dr Kevat – Rheumatologist	10 October	Bookings- 3889 7990
Dr Copp – General Surgeon (Obesity Clinic)	20-23 October	Bookings- 3238 9319
Dr Edwards- Thoracic Physician QLD Sleep Specialists	9,13,25 October	Bookings- 4942 1144
Dr Noakes- Dermatologist	16-17 October	Bookings- 4942 1144

REMINDERS

For	Workshop	Date/time	Venue	Contact
GPs	IMG Meeting- Immigration	8 th October	MDGP	MDGP- Val Ph: 49534491
All	Immunisation Network Meeting	14 th October	MDGP	MDGP-Joh Ph:4953 4491
GPs	AGM Dinner Dance	17 th October	Ocean International	MDGP-Karin Ph:4953 4491
All	Drought Rural Health Expo	25 th November	Moranbah TBA	MDGP-Donna Ph:4953 4491
GPs	RACGP Emergency Medicine Training	8 th February	TBA	MDGP-Karin Ph:4953 4491

