

Current Paediatric Trainees n=26

Masters of Medicine II

- PNG 13 – 5 MMed II exam in 2022
- Vanuatu 1 (2022)
- Solomon Islands 3

Part 1 (2022)

- PNG 5

DCH (2022)

- PNG 2
- Solomon Islands 2

Total - 26

2023/4

- 8 registrars in provinces have shown interest in enrolling for DCH
- Wewak, Kundiawa, PMGH, Angau, Popendetta, Buka, Goroka, Vanimo, Rabaul
- If we don't get at least 6 starting DCH every year, we won't reach targets

Challenges

- A big program: as many trainees in the program *now* as graduates in the last 6 years
- Registrar positions – currently several paediatricians do not have a registrar!
- Requirement for 2 years in a paediatric ward post residency before DCH
- Some of these who have shown interest for 2023/4 will become less interested / attracted by other specialties
- Easy for registrars to get lost, especially at transition points
- Despite the need to increase numbers, need to maintain high quality of trainees.

Improving learning opportunities

- CME
- Regular lectures
- Learning resources on-line
- More teaching on adolescent health, social and community paediatrics, disability, child protection, cancer, echo / USw

Supervisors and mentors

- Tools for regular clinical assessment and feedback
- Training and support for supervisors
 - Ongoing clinical training – CME / opportunities for specialist training – it helps supervisors to supervise if they are working towards something themselves
 - Research skills – how to design a basic research project
 - Identifying trainees that are falling behind
- Other skills they don't always teach us in medical school: empathy, communication skills, coping with death and loss, time-out, work-life balance, management

Off topic – a plug for paediatric nursing and HEO training in child health

- For many reasons the inflow of doctors into the DCH will be limited, so if we could achieve 3 paediatricians per province by 2030 that would be great
- The child health service will always rely on nurses, and given the complexity of child health now, we need more paediatric nurses
- The curriculum must keep pace with the changing trends in child and adolescent health, practical, independent practitioners...
- Many hospitals have loyal HEOs who have worked in the paediatrics ward for years, but there is no pathway to advancement – we need a paediatrics course for HEOs...