

Introduction

The RANZCP acknowledges the need for Fellows and Affiliates to have access to a refresher program following an extended period of absence from the profession. This program is available to Fellows and Affiliate psychiatrists who have:

- Had a break in their practice of psychiatry for a period of between one and three years. This would include, for example, psychiatrists who have been away from the workplace because of illness, or family commitments, or practised in another area of medicine,
- Worked exclusively in an administrative, academic or other role removed from direct clinical practice and are seeking to update clinical knowledge and skills,
- Had a break in their practice of less than one year but have identified a need for a refresher program in their Professional Development Plan.

It is important to recognise that this is a refresher program and not a remedial, retraining or advanced training program. As the RANZCP Specialist Refresher Program (SRP) involves self-review and reporting to improve the psychiatrist's abilities to function in the workplace, all activities undertaken during participation in the SRP can be recorded for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Key Objectives

The program is a self-directed, tailored learning experience that will encourage the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes in a professional who has been away from active clinical practice to a level where that practitioner can operate safely and confidently in the workplace. In addition, it will endeavour to meet the needs of both the employers, patients and the wider community.

Participants will establish learning objectives that will result in them being able to demonstrate the following:

- a) Knowledge of current developments in the field,
- b) The necessary skills to be able to perform the clinical practice to which they are returning,
- c) That they are able to meet the challenges of changes in clinical practice and the service
- d) Ethical standards of practice and
- e) A commitment to continuing professional development

Process

To participate in the SRP the following processes are required:

- Prospective participants complete an application form
- An "Educational Supervisor" is identified to support the participant. The educational supervisor can be identified by the participant or the CPD Manager can assist finding an educational supervisor
- Educational supervisor and participant set learning goals and activities using the "*Specialist Refresher Learning Agreement*"
- Timelines for activities are set between educational supervisor and participant. The length of the refresher program will vary according to the participant's needs but is likely to take 3-6 months
- Participant completes the learning portfolio by logging activities via My CPD
- Educational supervisor and participant sign off on completion of learning agreement for submission to the CPD Manager
- Reflection to be documented in My CPD (and included in the PDP)
- The educational supervisor, CPD manager and potentially the Chair of the Committee for CPD will assess and acknowledge completion of the refresher program

For any further information contact the CPD Team: cpdhelp@ranzcp.org

The RANZCP own all intellectual property rights (including any copyright, trade mark rights and patent rights) in the Information and this document. You may download, copy or print reasonable amounts of the Information for your personal, non-commercial use, but must not use it in a commercial way (for example, publishing, selling or modifying the Information) without RANZCP's prior written consent.