



MEDIA RELEASE

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Innovative training program taking steps towards addressing workforce shortages in Tasmania.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is pleased to announce that it will receive funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to pilot an innovative program that aims to support the training of specialist dermatologists in Tasmania.

The project aims to address the issue of workforce shortage by increasing opportunities for local doctors to work and train in their home state.

The funding was awarded under the Federal Government's Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) program and involves innovative approaches to training in rural and remote areas.

The project will focus on improving pathways for dermatology trainees wishing to train in Tasmania whilst simultaneously increasing access to specialist care for local communities by building the supervisory capacity needed to re-establish training at Royal Hobart Hospital.

In establishing a high quality, sustainable service delivery and training hub for the region, this project will increase the dermatology presence in Tasmania and also provide the local workforce with valuable exposure to dermatologists and the dermatology career pathway, as well as the opportunity for Tasmanians pursuing, or keen to pursue careers as specialist dermatologists to train and practice in their home state.

Addressing the shortage of dermatologists in rural, regional and remote areas is high on the agenda of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and ACD is delighted to be working jointly with the Tasmanian Department of Health and Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) to deliver this project, in collaboration with other local stakeholders.

"ACD has a strong track record of bringing together Federal and state governments, as well as public and private practice to provide tailored solutions to regional and rural training to address workforce issues and meet the unique needs of local communities" ACD President Dr Clare Tait said. "We are currently running two pilot programs under the FATES project in Townsville and Darwin, and as with the Tasmanian project, each involves close collaboration with local stakeholders and is tailored to the needs of the communities they service."

The Tasmanian project enables Hobart based dermatologists to take up public appointments at RHH, as well as support newly graduated dermatologists to transition to rural practice with public appointments at RHH. They will join the sole dermatologist currently delivering public services at RHH, to build a robust dermatology department to deliver sustainable dermatology services to the Tasmanian communities now and into the future.



“This project will enable newly graduated Fellows to transition to practice in their home state and provide a much needed service to the community of Tasmania. Further, it will provide other young doctors greater exposure to dermatology and we hope inspire more local trainees to apply for the training program, and ultimately practice in their home state” said Dr Tait.

As well as providing trainees rotating to Tasmania with exposure to varied expertise and mentorship from dermatologists, the project also uses a multidisciplinary training approach involving adjacent specialties all aimed at creating a high quality, positive experience. “It will provide trainees and newly graduated dermatologists with the opportunity to develop collegial relationships with locally based Tasmanian specialists that would help with their training and encourage their future practice in Tasmania” Dr Tait said.

“This opportunity will build the dermatology service at the Royal Hobart Hospital, providing increased access to services for the Tasmanian community and supporting specialist dermatology training that will help to build the dermatologist workforce of the future” Dr Emma Huckerby, Clinical Director, Royal Hobart Hospital said.

Encouraging a ‘home-grown’ workforce is a key goal of this project” Dr Tait said. “By offering local doctors the chance to train locally as well as a pathway for those who wish to transition back to their home state, this project will provide the community with a more sustainable workforce and help address workforce issues such as shortage and maldistribution.

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About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

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