

Training Psychiatrists in Psychogeriatrics (Old Age Psychiatry)

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The Australian Approach

- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is a bi-national College which ensures high quality of training in psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand.
- It establishes the Training Regulations, Curriculum, training process and examination for accreditation/registration of psychiatrists.
- The current programme was established in 1995.

RANZCP Training Principles

- “Consumer focused” approach.
- Active partnership with “consumers”.
- Ethical practice.
- “Mid-level objectives” to be enhanced through guidance from clinical supervisors, academic teachers, College Position papers, practice guidelines and code of ethics.
- Preparation toward future active involvement in Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Core Learning Objectives

- Attitudes
- Knowledge
- Skills

Attitude Objectives

1. Attitudes to people with mental health problems and mental illness (PWMHP&MI), carers and the community. (Respect for the humanity and dignity of the individual).
2. Attitude to care of PWMHP&MI. (Seek the best possible care for them).

3. Attitude to the practice of psychiatry.
(Demonstrate the acceptance of the need for constant critical review).

4. Attitude to the professional role of a psychiatrist.(Share the responsibility of upholding the integrity of the medical profession)

Knowledge Objective

1. The principles and processes of mental health promotion and prevention of MHP&MI.
2. Normal biological, psychological and social development from infancy to old age.
3. The basic biomedical and psychological sciences which underpin the practice of psychiatry.

4. Mental health problems and mental illnesses – the epidemiology, aetiology, clinical features, natural history, psychopathology, natural history, including the concepts of impairment, disability and handicap.
5. Impact of mental illness on people.
6. Medicine in relation to psychiatry.

7. Research methods.

8. Service organisation.

9. Professional responsibility, accountability, attitudes, clinical competence.

Skill Objective

1. Health promotion.
2. Assessment of PWMHP&MI.
3. Care and treatment of PWMHP&MI.
4. Role of a psychiatrist in a multidisciplinary health setting and in the community.
5. Medicine in psychiatry.
6. Research in psychiatry.

Note : RANZCP is moving towards a “competence based training model” in the near future.

Training Programme

- Years 1-3 : Basic (general) training.
- Years 4-5 : Advanced Certificate Training.
Choices of - General Advanced Training in
 - Adult Psychiatry
 - Child and Adolescent
 - Addiction
 - Old Age**
 - Consultation and Liasion
 - Forensic
 - Psychotherapies

Advanced Training in OAP

- Curriculum framework follows the core objectives of Attitude, Knowledge and Skills; but with a dedicated focus in mental disorders and issues in old age.
- Additional research competence in design, undertake, analyse and write up a research project (either by collection of empirical data or by a critical literature review of a subject)
- Established in 2003.

Advanced Training in OAP

- 24 months of clinical placement at accredited training programme sites, closely supervised by approved supervisors under the oversight of a Director of Training appointed by the FPOA. An academic programme accompanies the training.
- Supervisor assessment every 3 months. Six monthly reports mandatory.
- Logbook of clinical experience.
- Case Summary of a range of patients assessed and treated.
- Annual trainees day linked with the scientific meeting of the FPOA.