Symposium title:

New Models of Care in Private Practice Psychiatry

Author/s:

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Background:

There are a number of significant changes taking place in mental health policy, funding and service delivery that have important implications for the role of psychiatrists and practice of psychiatry now and into the future. Psychiatry, like the broader field of Medicine, is called upon to operate in an environment of ever increasing complexity. These changes offer challenges, but also opportunities for growth of traditional models and expansion into non-traditional areas of private practice.

In Australia, approximately 72% of psychiatrists engage in private practice at an average of 28 hours per week. In New Zealand, these figures are lower, with 39% of psychiatrists working an average of 14 hours per week in private practice.¹ Given these figures, the Private Practitioners Network (a Special Interest Group of the RANZCP) would like to explore innovations being trialled in private practice and support private practitioners in adapting to new environments and challenges.

Objectives:

1. Explore new innovations to exemplify how private psychiatrists can drive high quality patient care.
2. Examine alternative models of private practice in order to adapt to changing paradigms in mental health policy and service delivery.
3. Identify the possibilities available to private psychiatric practices and health services to promote the delivery of high quality psychiatric services to the community.

Schedule:

The proposed outline for the 2 x 90 minute sessions are as follows:

**Session 1 - Expanding Into Non-traditional Areas: Research and Registrars**

The image of traditional private practice as a solo practitioner in isolated rooms is increasingly being challenged. This session highlights two areas of growth in private practice: the contribution private practice can make to psychiatric research; and the possibilities and benefits of engaging a psychiatric registrar.

**Session 2 - New Models for Traditional Areas: Working in Collaboration, Consulting Rooms Built by Academics and Hospitals Built by Psychiatrists**

Innovation and quality care involves the connectivity of private practice and the necessity of adaptation to changing paradigms and models of care. This session will explore issues such as referrals/communication by multidisciplinary treatment providers and innovative models of providing private psychiatric care.