The Australian Rural Child Health Training Module

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The Rural Child Health Training Module has existed in various forms for the last six years. It has taken aspects of the general practice training paradigm for rural locations and modified it for specialist training. It is offered to advanced trainees in general paediatrics (RACP) undertaking their mandated six-month rural rotation.

The module consists of a three-day face-to-face meeting, commencing twice yearly and follows with 18 videoconference seminars at weekly intervals. Seminars are of 90 minutes duration, with half being dedicated to a didactic session presented by an ‘expert’ in a given field—such as ‘What’s new in gastroenterology?’, ‘Managing the dying baby’ or ‘What is a business case and why should I care?’

The other 45 minutes is clinical case discussion generated and lead by the trainees. Feedback indicates that this more open and discursive format is most valued by trainees.

The cohorts are closed and limited to a maximum of 16 per group.

The module has been evaluated independently by the University of Melbourne and found to be very effective in supporting the excellent clinical training material available in rural and regional Australia.

There has been impressive buy-in on the part of trainees, supervisors, hospitals, the College of Physicians and the government.

An outline of the module and learnings will be presented.