

## Assessment of the Observed Clinical Interview in the 2012 Fellowship training program

Communiqué March 2014



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists is committed to providing the highest quality training for medical doctors who specialise in psychiatry. Recently it has been decided to implement a new approach to the assessment of trainees' skills that have hitherto been assessed by the Observed Clinical Interview (OCI) examination. This follows several years of review and consultation with Fellows, Directors of Training, trainees and relevant committees. The new approach will involve integrating assessment as a component of Fellowship training rather than relying on an external examination. Trainees will now be required to undertake an Observed Clinical Activity (OCA), as a mandated Workplace Based Assessment, in each rotation, and hence will need to successfully complete a minimum of 10 OCAs over a minimum of 5 years.

As many Fellows would be aware, concerns about the traditional OCI assessment have been raised over recent years, including its reliability, its sustainability in terms of the demands placed on fellows and services, as well as the high level of stress placed on trainees.

This new model ensures that the rigor of training is not diluted whilst aiming to improve support for trainees and reduce the burden on local mental health services. It also provides an opportunity to assist trainees build their skills in engaging with patients and developing therapeutic relationships, a dynamic and complex area of medical treatment inherently important to the practice of psychiatry. External assessment of each trainee will remain an important element with the Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) and the Written Examinations.

The RANZCP Board have approved the implementation of this new model for all new trainees entering the 2012 training program from late 2014. Information regarding implementation for existing trainees in the 2012 program will be available later this year. At the same time information will be distributed to all Directors of Training, Branch Chairs and Branch Training Committee Chairs to explain how the new model will be introduced.

Please note that this new model applies to trainees in the 2012 training program only. Candidates currently in the 2003 training program should plan to complete the OCI examination as required by the 2003 regulations.

If you have queries in the first instance contact [training@ranzcp.org](mailto:training@ranzcp.org) or go to [www.ranzcp.org](http://www.ranzcp.org).