

Advanced Training in Public Health Medicine

Dr Tony Gill

Chair, Faculty Education Committee

President Elect



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Overview

- Training program overview
- Learning contracts
- Learning contract reports



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AFPHEM structure

- Important people in the office
 - Training please contact– Publichealth@racp.edu.au or (02) 8247 6286
 - Assessment – contact the Education Officer in the first instance
 - Examinations – faculty.examinations@racp.edu.au or 02 8076 6341.
 - Faculty Office – Eva Kosinski AFPHEM@racp.edu.au or (02) 9256 9622



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Training program

- Adult learning
- You are responsible for your training



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Training Program

- Curriculum covers numerous broad areas
 - General professional practice
 - Cultural competency
 - Information, research & evaluation
 - Policy
 - Health promotion and disease prevention
 - Health sector advocacy, development & management



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Training requirements 2022

Core training (36 units (FTE months))

Content

- Public Health Medicine Advanced Training Curriculum
- Professional Qualities Curriculum

Supervision

Per period of training:

- A supervisor with FAFPHM (if workplace supervisor does not have FAFPHM, there must be an FAFPHM co-supervisor)
- A mentor with FAFPHM (unless special dispensation from Faculty Education Committee)



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Training requirements 2022

Teaching and learning requirements

Per year:

- 1 Learning Contract (minimum)
- National Training Days (compulsory to attend once for trainees who commenced in 2022 onwards)
- 8–10 Trainee Videoconferencing (recommended, not compulsory)



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MPH Entry Requirements

All MPH courses must be an assessed course rather than an attendance course.

- **Completed Master of Public Health (MPH) (or equivalent)**

All MPH courses must be of the form of an assessed course rather than an attendance course. A completed MPH (or equivalent) that satisfies the five AFPHM compulsory core discipline areas is now mandatory, prior to commencement of training.

AFPHM compulsory core discipline areas:

- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health Protection (includes Environmental Health and/or Communicable Disease Prevention and Control) – note recommendation to do both.
- Health Promotion
- Health, Policy, Planning or Management



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Application to Commence Training (ATCT)

- Once the overseeing committee has found you eligible, you can apply to commence the Public Health Medicine Advanced Training program by submitting an Application to Commence the Public Health Medicine Advanced Training Program
- The ATCT **must be submitted within 24 months of receiving** confirmation of eligibility into Advanced Training in Public Health Medicine.



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Training Program

- Provides trainees with experience in practice of public health medicine in appropriately supervised and supported environments
- 36 units of certified training
 - 1 unit = 1 month FTE training
- Delivered through the workplace
- Content defined by learning objectives outlined in the Public Health Medicine Advanced Training Curriculum



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Accredited Training Settings

- Core training must be conducted in training positions at accredited training sites, that have been accredited by the overseeing committee (FEC)
- A list of accredited training sites in Public Health Medicine, can be found on the RACP website:

<https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/accredited-sites>

- If you are seeking accreditation for a site you will need to contact the Education Officer in site Accreditation on accreditation@racp.edu.au
- It is up to the site to apply but trainees may need to push site to apply.



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Training Program

- Trainees should seek a range of training opportunities
 - Formal rotations
 - Secondments
 - Varied employment posts



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Overseas training

- The AFPHM training program may include up to 12 units/months of training in an overseas-based position. This must be approved prospectively by the Faculty Training Committee.
- If trainees are to complete overseas placement at least 2 years of training (24 units) must be completed in Australia or NZ



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Credit for PhD study

- Trainees may include a maximum of 12 months of PhD-related activity in their training program.
- The Faculty Training Committee must prospectively approve their training plan by assessing the relevance of the PhD to the AFPHM competency areas.
- All standard application and assessment procedures apply.
- 12 months of PhD overseas counts as the 12 months permitted overseas and is NOT additional to this



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Mentors

- One mentor for whole training program recommended
- Must be a FAFPHM
- Provides oversight of progress throughout training
- Independent guidance on matters relating to
 - Training
 - Trainee wellbeing
 - Aspects of career development



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Supervisors

- At least one supervisor with FAFPHM for each training position/posting
- Support trainees in
 - Planning and facilitating the trainee's learning path
 - Facilitation of effective teaching and learning opportunities
 - Providing comprehensive and timely feedback on trainee's progress and achievement of competencies
 - Determining readiness for summative assessments
 - Overseeing completion by trainee of the Learning Contract & Learning Contract Report



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Regional Education Coordinators

Each state and Territory has a senior Fellow of the AFPHM who acts as Regional Education Coordinator. The RECs sit on the Faculty Training Committee in Public Health Medicine

Role:

- Advise trainees and potential trainees of training opportunities in their state
- Discuss the choice of supervisor and mentor with trainees
- Review all applications, Learning Contract and Learning Contract Reports
- Assist in remediation for trainees where appropriate
- Keep regional committees informed of training matters



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Learning Contracts (LC)

- Written by trainee and supervisor and submitted within 4 weeks (8 weeks during Covid-19 interim changes) of commencing a training position
 - Note new trainees get an extra 2 weeks to submit their first LC
- At least one per 12 month period
- One per training position
- Includes brief description of
 - Professional roles
 - Activities
 - Projects



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Learning Contracts (2)

- Link activities to competencies expected to achieve during that training period
- Common problems
 - Cutting & pasting competency lists
 - Only writing competency numbers
 - Not directly linking competencies to specific activities
 - Not describing your proposed role in the project
- Jen Desrosiers is the Public Health Learning Advisor at the RACP and available to help any trainees with their LCs/LCRs. It is expected that all new trainees will make contact with her in their first year of training. Her contact is: Jennifer.desrosiers@racp.edu.au



Late Learning Contracts

- LCs received after the 4 week deadline normally attract a late fee of \$197.50. This has been placed on hold during the Covid-19 interim changes.
- An LC is not considered complete until all supervisor(s) and mentor have signed off on the LC. Trainees are responsible for ensuring that all nominated supervisor(s) and mentor sign off on their LC prior to the deadline.
- Please also note that as per the College's [revised Progression through Training Policy](#), late LCs will not be accepted from one month after the published deadline. The Progression through Training Policy can be found on the [Education Policy webpage](#).
- If you make any changes to your LC regarding FTE and dates you are required to submit an amended LC for approval with a cover letter detailing why this has changed



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Learning Contract Reports (LCR)

- Completed by trainee and supervisor within 6 weeks (10 weeks during Covid-19 interim changes) of completing a position
- Summarises all activities and projects that you actually did
- Details outcomes of activities and how they specifically link to learning objectives achieved
- A LCR Competencies template (optional) is available on the RACP website for trainees to submit with their LCR and is useful for LC.
https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/trainees/advanced-training/public-health-medicine/at-public-health-medicine-learning-contract-report-competencies-form.xlsx?sfvrsn=4eb1c1a_6



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Learning Contract Reports (2)

- Includes
 - Retrospective account of professional roles, activities and projects that link to learning objectives
 - Outputs from projects which demonstrate progress across competencies
 - Training and conferences attended
 - Reflection on the training period by trainee and supervisor
 - Once you have attained the required level of competency for a specific learning objective (signed off by your supervisor in the LCR) – you do not have to repeat it on subsequent LCs



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Learning Contract Reports (3)

- If you change any projects or activities from what is stated on the LC, you must outline in the LCR what changed and why
- You must have your LC and LCR signed by both supervisor and mentor before submission, otherwise they will not be accepted



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Late Learning Contract Reports

- LCRs are due for submission to the College within 6 weeks (10 weeks during Covid-19 interim changes) of completing a position.
- Failure to do so, in accordance with the [Progression through Training Policy](#), may result in non-certification of that training period and referral to the [Training Support Pathway \(TSP\)](#).



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Work-based Learning and Assessment Tool

- 3 Direct Observation of Practical Professional Skills (DOPPS)
- 1 Formative Oral Presentation Assessment
- 2 Summative Oral Presentation Assessments
- 3 Professional Qualities Reflections
- 1 Research Project – for trainees commencing training in 2017 onwards.
- One over the course of training due in any submission round year before the end of Advanced Training.



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Work-based Learning and Assessment Tool cont.

- **Formative Assessment** – one oral presentation on a Public Health topic over the course of the training, recommended to be completed in the first year of training and are to be submitted to publichealth@racp.edu.au
- The oral presentation is an assessment of an organized oral presentation of at least 10 minute duration delivered by the trainee to an audience and assessed by two AFPHM Fellows.



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Work-based Learning and Assessment Tool cont.

- **Summative presentation** – two over the course of training, recommended to be completed in each of the second or third year of training, due by the end of Advanced training. Summative Oral Presentations are to be completed on the AFPHM portal
- The oral presentation is an assessment of an organized oral presentation of at least 10minutes duration delivered by the trainee to an audience and summative assessed by two AFPHM fellows. The Assessors should not include the trainee's supervisors or mentors.



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Work-based Learning and Assessment Tool cont.

- **Personal Qualities Reflection** –to help trainees articulate and formalize ideas and insights about their professional development through the process of reflection.
- Three PQR's must be submitted over the course of training due by the end of the Advanced Training.



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Work-based Learning and Assessment Tool cont.

- **Direct Observation of Practical Professional Skills (DOPPS):** to provide an opportunity for trainees to receive practice and feedback on practical skills that are commonly required in public health.
- Three is required to be submitted, one recommended per year of training.
- Type of work suitable for this assessment includes; chairing a meeting, speaking at a community forum, conducting an environmental audit or site inspection.



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Workplace Reports and Projects

- **For trainees commencing training in 2017 onwards:**
Two Workplace Reports and one Research Project over the course of training.
- **For trainees who commenced training before 2017:**
Three Workplace Reports over the course of training.
- **3 workplace reports for trainees who have been granted Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for their Research project.**



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Workplace Reports and Projects contd

- Note requirement for supervisor sign off on cover sheet before submitting - https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/trainees/advanced-training/public-health-medicine/public-health-medicine-workplace-report-cover-sheet.docx?sfvrsn=2fb02e1a_12
- Note MARKING GUIDE FOR WORKPLACE REPORT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - https://www.racp.edu.au/docs/default-source/trainees/advanced-training/public-health-medicine/public-health-medicine-workplace-report-marking-form-and-criteria50deabafbbb261c2b08bff01001c3177.pdf?sfvrsn=f918f51a_4
- Note requirement for supplementary material to ensure assessment can occur in all areas – see 2022 handbook.



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Interim COVID changes

- See website - <https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/advanced-training/advanced-training-programs/public-health-medicine>
- Advanced Training Research Project over the course of training
- Timeframes for LC and LCR submission
- Professional Qualities Reflections – only two required for trainees completing training in 2022 and for oral exam eligibility in 2022.



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AFPHM Oral Examination Requirements

The oral examination is a summative assessment completed at or near the end of the training program.

The exam tests trainees' knowledge and understanding of important issues from key areas of public health as set out in the Public Health Medicine Advanced Training Curriculum.

Eligibility requirements:

- apply and pay for the exam by the due date
- training fees must be current
- hold a current general medical registration
- have completed at least 29 units/months of training by 31 December in the same year of the exam
- meet the requirements in the Progression Through Training Policy



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AFPHM Oral Examination Requirements cont.

Trainees must also have completed or passed these assessments by 31 July in the same year of the exam:

- 1 x Formative Oral Presentation Assessment
- 2 x Direct Observation of Practical Professional Skills
- 3 x Professional Qualities Reflections (2 for final year trainees during Covid-19 interim changes)
- 1 x Summative Oral Presentation Assessment
- 2 x Workplace Reports

Exam attempt limit

Trainees have a maximum of 3 attempts. Trainees who are unable to complete the oral examination within 3 attempts are not eligible to continue in training.



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Important dates

- All Learning Contracts are due within 4 weeks (8 weeks under COVID-19 interim changes) of commencing a position.
- All Learning Contract Reports are due within 6 weeks (10 weeks under COVID-19 interim changes) of completing a position.
- 1-15 March (15 February-15 March under COVID-19 interim changes)
 - First Workplace Report/Project submission round
- 1 – 15 June (18 May-15 June under COVID-19 interim changes)
 - Second Workplace Report/Project submission round
- 15-29 September (1-29 September under COVID-19 interim changes)
 - Third Workplace Report/Project submission round



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Important dates (2)

Entry and Commencement:

- Eligibility to Join the Advanced Training Program form for new trainees should be submitted at **least three months (two months for COVID-19 interim changes before applying for the program)**
- Application to Commence Training must be submitted within 24 months of receiving eligibility into the program
- Application to Commence Training must be submitted **within four weeks of commencing a position**
- RPL applications are to be submitted **within three months of commencing your first training position.**



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Important dates (3)

Eligibility requirements due:	Sunday, 31 July
Applications open:	Monday, 1 August
Applications close:	Friday, 12 August
Oral exam dates:	Tuesday 18 - Wednesday, 19 October
Post-exam special consideration:	Wednesday, 26 October
Results released:	From 3pm Thursday, 3 November

See the AFPHM Oral Examination webpage for full information.

Note: A supplementary exam is no longer offered for borderline candidates. Borderline results now go through a structured moderation process immediately following the exam.



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Further information

The following resources are found on the RACP website:

Education policies

<https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/education-policies-and-governance/education-policies>

AFPHM Oral Examination

<https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/examinations/afphm-oral-examination>

Professional Qualities Curriculum (on the AT Handbook page)

<https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/advanced-training/advanced-training-programs/public-health-medicine>



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Further information contd

- Training program including 2022 handbook - <https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/advanced-training/advanced-training-programs/public-health-medicine>
- Trainee Support - The Training Support Unit prioritises wellbeing and support for trainees and supervisors in progression through training.
 - <https://www.racp.edu.au/trainees/trainee-support>



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Questions?



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