

# Country Education Program

**Victorian Medical  
Postgraduate Foundation Inc.**

Professor John Tiller

**VMPF**

## **Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation**

- Not-for-profit organisation established in 1920
- Initially linked with AMA
- Multidisciplinary
- Annual turnover 2003-2004 of \$880,400

**[www.vmpf.org.au](http://www.vmpf.org.au)**

**VMPF**

## History



- In 1977 the VMPF got a grant from DHS to provide continuing education to rural medical and allied health professionals
- 1977 - 20 rural centres and 55 lectures
- 1999 - Funding withdrawn (rural protest)
- 2000 - Program funded by VMPF
- 2001 - DHS funding reinstated
- 2005
  - 29 rural centres
  - 285 lecture/workshops
  - >5050 attended

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## Locations

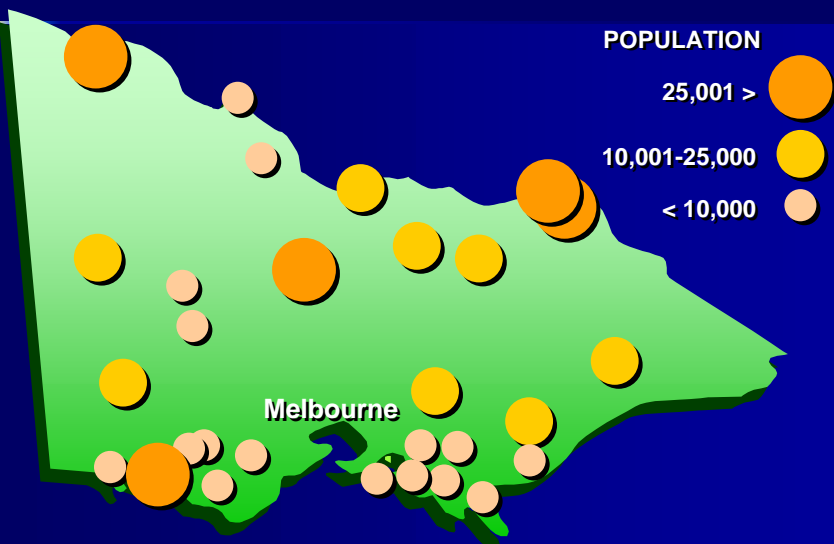


- The Country Education Program is conducted at 29 rural centres throughout Victoria.

**Albury, Ararat, Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Camperdown, Colac, Echuca, Foster, Hamilton, Horsham, Inverloch, Kerang, Korumburra, Leongatha, Mildura, Phillip Island, Portland, Sale, Shepparton, Stawell, Swan Hill, Terang, Timboon, Wangaratta, Warragul, Warrnambool, Wodonga, Wonthaggi and Yarram.**

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# Country Education Program Network



## Accreditation



- The RACGP Category 1 QA&CPD 2 points/ hour
- ACRRM 1 PDP point per hour
- RCNA (for nurses) participating in the 3 LP Plan.
- Other disciplines self-assess their CPD requirements and report directly to their own Colleges.

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## Administration



- VMPF central administration prepares the program in response to local needs analyses, GPDV and DHS recommendations.
- Through VMPF the program is flexible with additional meetings organised quickly to meet emerging educational needs.
- Secured 3 year funding (though threatened)

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## Administration

- We liaise with our speakers to ascertain their preferred country venues (areas they visit as specialists, hospital or university affiliation and other factors), to enhance the benefit of their visit.
- We work closely with our enthusiastic local Regional Supervisors to provide appropriate associated speakers and to ensure the smooth running of the educational events.
- Our speaker database is constantly updated to ensure the quality of the program is maintained and enhanced.
- We record attendances and evaluations, generate certificates, and manage finances

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## 2004 Achievements



- Increased attendances (> 5,050 attended 285 educational events).
- Expanded program into a wider South Gippsland area.
- VMPF one of the first organisations to become an Endorsed Provider through the RCNA.
- Up-to-date information on educational and professional initiatives eg. Victorian Doctors Health Program.

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## 2004 Achievements

- Enhanced reporting and evaluation of attendees.
- Wide promotion to allied health professionals.
- Research into wider accreditation.
- Laminated advertising posters forwarded to hospitals.
- Online Quiz pro-forma placed on website.

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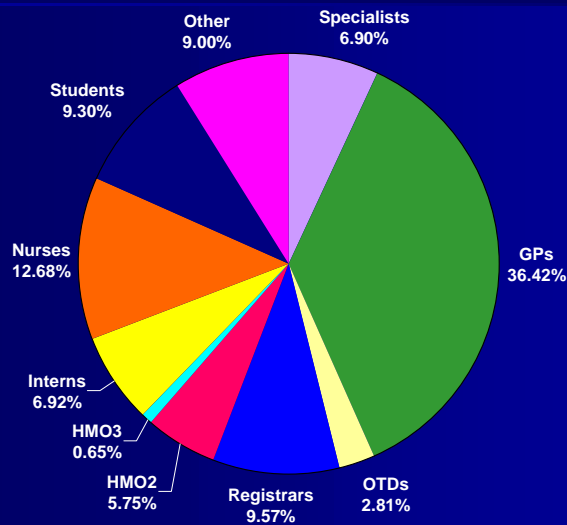
# Format



- Lunchtime networking opportunity (multidisciplinary)
- Lecture/workshop
- Case studies and discussions
- Online Quiz relating to specific lectures
- Online timetable of lecture/workshop program and other events

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# Multidisciplinary Attendances January to December 2004



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## Attendances

- Attendees from the “Other” category (9%) were from the following disciplines:

Pharmacist, Dietician, Paramedic, Physiotherapist, Speech Therapist, Psychologist, Diabetes Educator, Podiatrist, Ambulance Officer, Student Nurses, RAAF MO, Radiographer, Personal Care Assistant, Occupational Therapists, Librarian, Social Worker, RACGP, Medical Administrator, Divisional Staff, QA, Local Government, DHS Representative, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Allied Health, Education Officer, Practice Manager.

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## Disciplines



- As identified in annual Needs Analysis.

Cardiology	Mental Health
Dermatology	Ophthalmology
Doctors' Health	Orthopaedics
Emergency Medicine	Paediatrics
Endocrinology	Respiratory
Forensic Medicine	Sports Medicine
Geriatrics	Surgery
Indigenous Health	Travel Health
Medico-Legal & Privacy Laws	Women's Health

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## Mental Health



- Dementia
- Mental Health First Aid
- Treatment of Resistant Depression
- Doctors' Health
- Personality Disorders
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- Paediatrics - Behavioural Disturbance

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## Sponsorship



- VMPF secures grants to cover speakers' honoraria, travel and, when necessary, accommodation for evening meetings.
- A DHS (state government) grant is supplemented by sponsorship from pharmaceutical companies
- The program is established prior to distribution to the pharmaceutical companies for consideration of sponsorship
- No meetings are conducted on behalf of the companies or include material relevant to their products.

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## Strengths

- Established organisation
- Trust and reputation, ethical
- Personal contacts and influence
- Mutual advantages
- VMPF responsive to needs
- Well managed, economical and effective
- Personal educational approach: listen, learn, interact, do, follow-up with increased online support
- A rural education model

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## The Future



- Maintain high standard of CME.
- Increase attendances from all health disciplines.
- Further develop online resources
  - Abstracts
  - Quiz
  - Key hot-links
- Add other resources
  - Telemedicine, internet based support
  - Major regional meetings

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