

**ABSTRACT -
SMALL GROUP LEARNING IN GENERAL PRACTICE
SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS**

- Small group learning has a strong role in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and is now actively promoted by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.
- The Hunter Postgraduate Medical Institute (HPMI) has developed a special interest 'club' format with an increasing uptake by rural and urban General Practitioners.
- This club model consists of a series of 4 week-day evening meetings over a 12 month period. Club membership is limited to approximately 10 members.
- The programme was begun in 2002 and has grown to seven (7) Clubs – Cardiology, Diabetes, Psychiatry, Schizophrenia, Women's Health, Gastroenterology, and Respiratory Medicine.
- The concept seems equally well suited to the urban and the remote rural environment.

- Ninety-seven percent of club members rated the clubs overall value as very good to excellent. Attendance rates of almost 80%, was documented at each meeting.
- Pharmaceutical sponsorship was used although the sponsor had no role in topic or speaker selection nor meeting discussion. While 50% found the industry involvement minimally intrusive, 61% felt that sponsorship facilitated attendance.
- Sponsors were also very satisfied with the club model.
- This model is presented for consideration by other CPD providers - non-industry support is also possible.
- The information provided in this presentation is based on a submitted article to the MJA under the authorship of Professor Shane Carney, Dr Milton Sales, and Ms Jean Walsh based on the work of the programme committee of the HPMI.

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