

**0030**

**The desirability of problem based learning for Australian and international rural GP registrar trainees**

G. Heading

*Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health, the University of Sydney, Broken Hill, Australia*

An evaluation was undertaken to explore the impact and desirability of different learning modalities as part of the professional development of General Practitioner (GP) Registrars (Internationally and Australian medically trained) undertaking GP training in rural and remote Australia. The study focused on a three day training program on clinical and public health issues, including scabies in remote Australia, which included problem based learning (PBL), developed by GP trainers, in consultation with remote university academics, medical specialists and GPs.

The evaluation explored if new knowledge, skills and attitudes were obtained that could be applied to general practice (e.g. communication skills; holistic care of communities, families and individuals; working as a member of a team; clinical and critical thinking; and, public and environmental health skills) and if PBL (and other learning modalities) posed any challenges or offered any benefits to learning.

Evaluation methods included: a) a pre-placement survey exploring experience with and understanding of PBL and demographics; b) daily session evaluations using mixed methods (open and closed ended questions); c) post training telephone interviews with trainees; and, d) Key Informant interviews with trainers/PBL tutors. Written consent to participate in the evaluation was obtained from two thirds of participants and all trainers, prior to training. A coding frame was developed as part of the thematic analysis of interview data.

The paper presents assumptions and challenges related to training GP adult learners and explores the suitability of PBL in workforce training (and other learning modalities) with mixed groups comprised of Australian and International trainees. The utility of qualitative telephone interviews in post training evaluation is also addressed.