



GENERAL SURGERY  
SURGICAL EDUCATION &  
TRAINING PROGRAM

# Victoria-Tasmania Regional Guide

# 2026



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# Introduction

Welcome to the General Surgery Education and Training (GSET) Program in the Victoria-Tasmania (VIC-TAS) Region.

There are various requirements to training that Trainees need to be aware of. Please use this regional guide along with the Training Regulations to familiarise yourself with these requirements to ensure a smooth journey during your time on the training program.

This guide is to assist you to understand how the VIC-TAS Region works, with important dates and information.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the principal body for the training and education of surgeons in Australia and New Zealand. General Surgeons Australia (GSA) collaborates with the RACS as an agent of the College, to administer the training program in Australia and manage the Australian Board in General Surgery (ABiGS). ABiGS is the overseer of the GSET Program and reports directly to the Board of Surgical Education and Training (BSET) and the RACS Council.

The General Surgery SET/GSET Program is designed to ensure that the graduating General Surgery Trainee has the competencies and skills required to undertake core General Surgery procedures, is able to participate independently in an acute on call general surgical roster and is competent across the RACS Core Competencies.

General Surgery covers many surgical conditions. The curriculum provides an indication of the breadth of knowledge required. The curriculum should only be taken as a guide as to what you will be expected to cover during your training, as you will not necessarily be limited to the areas and conditions listed.

To assist you during your time on the GSET Program, please refer to the relevant Board in General Surgery Training Regulations.

The GSET Regulations can be found [here](#) - or go to the GSA Website, under For Trainees - Training Programs - GSET Program - GSET Regulations.

## **VIC-TAS REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS**

For further information on the General Surgery Training Program, or information provided in this Regional Guide, please contact the VIC-TAS Regional Office:

### **Fiona Bull**

#### **Executive General Manager - Education & Training Delivery**

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#### **Training Coordinator**

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# VIC/TAS Training Committee

The Australian Board in General Surgery (ABiGS) of RACS oversees the conduct of the RACS Surgical Education and Training GSET program in General Surgery, reporting to the Board of Surgical Education and Training.

The current Chair of the Australian Board in General Surgery is A/Prof Gabby Vasica FRACS.

Each region has a state-based Training Committee that reports directly to the ABiGS. The Victoria-Tasmania (VIC-TAS) Training Committee of the Australian Board in General Surgery is responsible for providing recommendations to the Board on regional issues including trainee requests, selection, hospital inspections, and educational courses. The Committee also discusses and reviews the progress of trainees that have been placed on Probation or Performance Management Plan/Learning & Development Plan.

In 2026, the VIC-TAS Training Committee consists of the Chair, Dr Sarah Martin, FRACS, the Deputy Chair Dr Damien Loh FRACS, and a nominated Hospital Supervisor from each hospital with a General Surgery accredited post.

All correspondence to the Chair of the Training Committee is to come via the VIC-TAS Regional Office.

The Training Committee meets five (5) times per year and reports to the Australian Board in General Surgery after each meeting. In most instances the Board will provide final approval to Trainee Requests.

The 2026 VIC-TAS Training Committee meeting dates are listed below. Trainees wishing to submit a request or agenda item for discussion must submit their request by the due dates also listed below.

## 2026 VIC-TAS TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

<b>Tue 24 February 2026</b>	Trainee request/agenda items due: Fri 6 February 2026
<b>Tue 12 May 2026*</b>	Trainee request/agenda items due: Fri 24 April 2026*
<b>Tue 14 July 2026</b>	Trainee request/agenda items due: Fri 26 June 2026
<b>Tue 1 September 2026</b>	Trainee request/agenda items due: Fri 14 August 2026
<b>Tue, 17 November 2025</b>	Trainee request/agenda items due: Fri 30 October 2026

**\*PLEASE NOTE: As per the Australian Board in General Surgery Training Regulations ([www.generalsurgeons.com.au](http://www.generalsurgeons.com.au)), all trainee requests for interruption must be approved prior to 31 July by both the VIC-TAS Training Committee and Australian Board in General Surgery so that requests can be reviewed and processed in time for the assignment of allocations and rotations in the following year.**

***Trainee requests that impact the following years allocations (i.e. interruption, transfers) need to be reviewed at the May meeting at the latest. Requests submitted after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.***

# Term Dates & Assessments

## TERM 1 2026

<b>Term 1 Start Date:</b>	Monday 2 February 2026
<b>Term 1 End Date:</b>	Sunday 02 August 2026
<b>Mid Term Assessment due:</b>	Sunday 03 May 2026 (Midnight)
<b>End of Term Assessment + Logbook due:</b>	Sunday 02 August 2026 (Midnight)

## TERM 2 2026

<b>Term 2 Start Date:</b>	Monday 03 August 2026
<b>Term 2 End Date:</b>	Sunday 31 January 2027
<b>Midterm Assessment due:</b>	Sunday 01 November 2026 (Midnight)
<b>End of Term Assessment + Logbook due:</b>	Sunday 31 January 2027 (Midnight)

### GSET MID TERM AND END OF TERM ASSESSMENTS:

Assessments are conducted at Mid-Term and End-of-Term via the Trainee Information Management System (TIMS). Please refer to the guides available on the GSA website and the GSET Training Program Regulations for further information.

**PLEASE NOTE: Regular reminders will be sent prior to the assessment due dates; it is the Trainee's responsibility to be aware of the above dates. Failure to submit an assessment by the due date is a breach of the Australian Board in General Surgery Training Regulations. The period of training may not be accredited resulting in the Trainee automatically commencing Probationary Training in the subsequent term pending a review by the VIC-TAS Training Committee.**

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

There are eight (8) training hubs in the VIC/TAS training region. Each hub is made up of several hospitals, spread amongst rural and metropolitan areas.

Trainees are assigned to one of the eight hubs for the duration of their training and are required to undertake a series of mixed rotations to provide valuable training experience.

The Hub Supervisors oversee trainee's progress and performance whilst on the Training Program, they provide support and advice to their hub trainees. It is important to know who your Hub Supervisor is and to keep in regular contact. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your training, please seek guidance from your Hub Supervisor.

## VIC-TAS HUB SUPERVISORS

<b>The Alfred Hub</b>	Dr Damien Loh
<b>Austin Northern Hub</b>	A/Prof Vijayaragavan Muralidharan & Dr David Proud
<b>Eastern Hub</b>	Dr Vinna An
<b>Royal Melbourne Hub</b>	Dr Tim Furlong
<b>South West Regional Hub</b>	Prof Glenn Guest
<b>Southern Hub</b>	Ms Corinne Ooi
<b>St Vincent's Hub</b>	Dr Michael Johnston
<b>Western Hub</b>	Dr Yahya Al-Habbal

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## THE ALFRED HUB

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Dr Damien Loh

**CURRENT POSTS:** 16 x SET/GSET.

### HOSPITALS WITHIN THE ALFRED HUB:

- Albury-Wodonga Health (1 post)
- Alfred Hospital (5 posts)
- Frankston Hospital (4 posts)
- Mildura Base Hospital (2 posts)
- Royal Hobart Hospital (2 posts)
- Sandringham & District Memorial Hospital (2 posts)

The Alfred Hub is a large training hub that has focuses in General Surgery, Trauma, Breast & Endocrine, Upper GI, Hepatobiliary and Colorectal. During the four years of surgical training, Alfred Hub trainees can expect to rotate to Sandringham, Frankston, Albury/Wodonga, Mildura and Royal Hobart Hospitals.

The Alfred Hospital is the base hospital of the Alfred Hub and is a 400-bed tertiary referral hospital in Prahran, Melbourne. The Alfred Hospital is the busiest Level 1 Trauma Centre in the Southern Hemisphere. It also has four specialty general surgical services that treat adult patients with a wide range of benign and malignant conditions. Cancer services incorporate on-site medical oncology and radiation oncology, with regular multidisciplinary meetings. All surgical specialties practice minimal access surgery. The Alfred Hospital also runs an onsite hyperbaric chamber, and as such treats a significant number of patients with necrotising fasciitis from around the state. General surgical services are supported by a 48-bed intensive care unit, as well as radiological services incorporating interventional radiology and a busy emergency department.

Trainees can expect to complete 2 to 3 terms away from Melbourne in their first 2 years of the SET program. This will ensure they are based in Melbourne, for SET 4 and 5 to facilitate Part II exam preparation. This also allows the more junior trainees to gain valuable operative experience in centres without surgical fellows, as well as being more advanced in their technical skills when they do have the opportunity to rotate through more highly specialised units treating patients with complex surgical and medical conditions.

The Department of General Surgery at the Alfred also supports surgical trainees undertaking clinical and lab-based research. We are fortunate to have many consultants with higher research degrees qualified to supervise Masters and PhD candidates. The Alfred Hospital is a clinical campus of Monash University Faculty of Medicine. The annual D.S. Rosengarten Research Presentation held on the first Saturday in December, is now into its 30th year.

The General Surgical Tutorial Program runs weekly from February through to November. Weekly tutorials cover core surgical topics, including pathology and trauma. While the delivery of the program has a focus on exam preparation in the earlier months of the year, it is designed for all pre-SET and SET trainees. Tutorials are held on a weeknight from 6:00pm to allow trainees from external hospitals to attend.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## AUSTIN NORTHERN HUB

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**HUB SUPERVISORS:** A/Prof Vijayaragavan Muralidharan & Dr David Proud

**CURRENT POSTS:** 24 x SET/GSET.

### HOSPITALS WITHIN THE AUSTIN NORTHERN HUB:

#### Melbourne Metropolitan Hospitals

- Austin Northern Health (8 posts)
- Northern Hospital (7 posts)

#### Victorian Regional Hospitals

- Bendigo Hospital (2 posts)
- Echuca Regional Health (1 post)
- Central Gippsland Hospital and Health Service (1 post)
- Goulburn Valley Health (1 post)

#### Interstate Hospitals

- Launceston General Hospital (1 post)
- Royal Hobart Hospital (1 post)
- Tasmanian Health Service - North West (Burnie) (2 posts)

The Austin Northern Hub is a General Surgery training hub with 23 SET rotations and 27 NON-SET rotations. An ethos of education and research pervades the entire organisation from the CEO down through to the training surgeons and units supported by a very engaged Medical Workforce Unit. It provides excellent exposure to clinical experience, surgical research and surgical education programs. We endeavour to continue developing a community of surgical trainees and trainers.

**Rotations:** The rotations are distributed between two metropolitan hospitals working in partnership (Austin and Northern), Regional Victorian hospitals, Tasmania and a single rotation to Alice Springs. Within Austin and Northern Hospitals there are separate rotations in Vascular and Thoracic surgery. Both hospitals have sub-specialty units allowing senior trainees to target their rotations to fit in with their long-term career goals. Some of the regional rotations also have sub-specialty focus. This variety enables senior trainees the opportunity to undertake multiple rotations in their sub-specialty of interest.

**Flexible Training (FLEXTR):** Austin & Northern Health formally support 'FLEXTR General Surgery SET' positions in each of the four General Surgery units at Austin Health and Northern Health. These are the HPB & Transplant Unit, Breast Unit, UGI/ENDO Unit and Colorectal Unit at Austin and the CR, BR/ENDO, UGI and HPB units at Northern Hospitals. The structure of the positions will conform to the RACS regulations of 0.5 FTE, with the LTFT trainee being allocated to the unit for 12 months which will count as a single six-month term working on a week-on week-off system. From 2020 these positions will be available to any trainee in General Surgery in Australia. Applications are through the regular GSA channel through TMS. There are specific conditions which can be obtained from GSA.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## AUSTIN NORTHERN HUB CONT.

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**Surgical Education Program:** A comprehensive surgical education program is provided to trainees through weekly Tuesday and Friday morning tutorials, monthly Saturday symposia, five simulation workshops and FRACS exam preparation course. Northern Hospital has commenced additional education sessions to compliment the Austin Northern program. The tutorials are accessible to Austin Northern Hub trainees by real time web link allowing those in regional rotations to also participate.

**Austin Surgical Trainees Education Committee (ASTECC):** The presence of more than 50 SET and NON-SET trainees in General Surgery has enabled the evolution of a community of surgical trainees who are progressively involved in the development and delivery of the education and training program. The trainees committee engages several educational events and participates in interacting with management. The aim is to enhance and develop leadership amongst surgical trainees. Specific events conducted by ASTECC include a clinically-focussed Orientation Day for new surgical trainees and a mock Fellowship Exam for senior trainees. Each year ends with an Austin Northern General Surgery Trainees dinner to which all General Surgery trainees and surgeons from metropolitan, regional and interstate units participate.

**Laminas:** A quarterly surgical training e-zine is published to support the community of General Surgery trainees since 2014. Research Opportunities: Full time research in both lab based and clinical research as well as concurrent clinical research is well supported. Surgical educational research is another focus of the hub. The establishment of LTFT training provides further opportunities for concurrent research. An annual Research prize is awarded and all trainees are encouraged to participate.

**VERITAS (Victorian collaborative for Education, Research, Innovation, Training and Audit by Surgical trainees):** The first trainee led research collaborative in Victoria has been established at Austin and is currently undertaking the first clinical audit study.

**Distribution of Training:** Trainees will spend between 3-5 rotations of their training in regional or interstate rotations. Most SET 4 trainees, and SET 5 Term 1 will be located at Austin or The Northern Hospital to help with exam preparation. Please take this into consideration when considering the Austin Northern as your General Surgery Training Hub. If you are unable to spend time in regional centres, then you should consider one of the other hubs with limited regional rotations.

**Allocation of Rotations:** This is done annually with all trainees submitting their preferences as well as listing any social issues that may impact on their choices. In general, between 70-80% of trainees can be allocated their first choice in rotations.

**Motto:** Disce, Doce aut Discede (Learn, Teach or Depart!)

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## **EASTERN HUB**

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Dr Vinna An

**CURRENT POSTS:** 11 x SET/GSET.

**HOSPITALS WITHIN THE EASTERN HUB:**

- Angliss Health Service (2 posts)
- Bendigo Hospital (2 posts)
- Box Hill Hospital (4 posts)
- Eastern Health Blackburn (1 post)
- Maroondah Hospital (2 posts)

The Eastern Surgical Training Hub is a predominantly metropolitan training hub with rotations to Box Hill Hospital, Maroondah Hospital and the Angliss Hospital, with Bendigo Hospital providing our trainees experience at a regional centre. Our hospitals have all experienced a rapid growth in the last few years servicing the eastern corridor of Melbourne. Box Hill Hospital opened in 2014 with state-of-the-art facilities and is fully operational with increased numbers of theatre and endoscopy lists.

A Surgical Research meeting is conducted weekly to facilitate and foster clinical and lab based research open to all trainees and junior staff. Surgical education and training at Eastern Health is a priority with fortnightly consultant led tutorials held on a weeknight in person and via videolink with a focus towards the fellowship exam.

Across all campuses there are ample opportunities for training in general surgery as well as subspecialty training. Box Hill Hospital has the largest colorectal unit in Melbourne with a high colorectal cancer and endoscopic workload. The Upper GI and HPB cases are centralized to the unit at Box Hill which has the busiest surgically run ERCP service in the state. Breast and Endocrine surgery, based mainly at Maroondah Hospital, provides a high volume training rotation with a mix of elective cancer surgery and urgent general surgery. The Angliss Health Service provides general surgical services to the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne and provide surgical trainees with daily operating lists without the competition of on-site surgical fellows.

Rotations will be allocated on preferences and trainee circumstances but there will be an expectation that all trainees will be given the opportunity to rotate through rural and all subspecialty units towards the end of their training. Post fellowship training opportunities exist at Eastern Health in colorectal, upper GI, bariatric, breast endocrine and general surgery.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## ROYAL MELBOURNE HUB

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Dr Tim Furlong

**CURRENT POSTS:** 15 x SET/GSET.

### HOSPITALS WITHIN THE ROYAL MELBOURNE HUB:

- Albury-Wodonga Health (1 post)
- Epworth Richmond (1 post)
- Launceston General Hospital (2 posts)
- North East Health Wangaratta (1 posts)
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute (1 post)
- Royal Melbourne Hospital (7 posts)
- Sunshine Hospital (1 post)
- Wimmera Base (1 post)

The Royal Melbourne Hub is a large surgical training centre that includes many SET training positions. The Royal Melbourne Hospital is one of two major trauma centres in Victoria and provides unique training opportunities in this area. The Royal Melbourne Hospital has a busy consultant-lead Emergency General Surgery (EGS) Unit and a very high-volume Nephrology Surgery & Transplant Unit. In addition, there are subspecialty units including Breast/ Oncology/Endocrine surgery, HPB/UGI surgery and Colorectal surgery. Other urban rotations include Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Sunshine Hospital, and Epworth Hospital. Rural rotations are to Wangaratta, Albury, Wimmera and Launceston.

All trainees can expect to spend three (3) rotations of their training in a rural rotation and the rest of their time in Melbourne. Formal surgical trainee teaching sessions take place every week and with the high volume of clinical work, there is ample opportunity for clinical research. Royal Melbourne Hospital is one of the key clinical partners in the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre that has been built on-site, and this is likely to further enhance the General Surgical

Oncology exposure in the Royal Melbourne Hub. Rotations will be allocated on preferences and trainee circumstances but there will be an expectation that all trainees will be given the opportunity to rotate through rural and all subspecialty units towards the end of their training. Post fellowship training opportunities exist at Eastern Health in colorectal, upper GI, bariatric, breast endocrine and general surgery.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## **SOUTH WEST REGIONAL HUB**

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Prof Glenn Guest

**CURRENT POSTS:** 14 x SET/GSET.

### **HOSPITALS WITHIN THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL HUB:**

- Ballarat Base Hospital Campus (4 posts)
- Colac Area Health (1 post)
- Epworth Geelong (1 post)
- Geelong Hospital (5 posts)
- Hamilton Base Hospital (1 post)
- Warrnambool Hospital - South West Healthcare (2 posts)

The South West Regional Hub is an expanding hub that is focused on providing high quality surgical training by utilising the popular training positions of Geelong, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Hamilton and Colac Hospitals. These hospitals provide high volume, hands on experience with Surgeons who balance a career in surgery and take a personal interest in you and your training needs.

Along with the benefits of living in a regional area, trainees can expect rotations in General Surgery as well as subspecialty rotations in Colorectal, Breast, Endocrine, Upper GI and Hepatobiliary surgery in Geelong and Ballarat.

A very active academic unit provides many research opportunities and the encouragement and support for trainees who wish to pursue a higher degree and be involved in global health. The South West Regional Hub is dedicated to producing General Surgeons of outstanding quality and hope to provide inspiration in considering a career in regional Australia.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## **SOUTHERN HUB**

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Ms Corinne Ooi

**CURRENT POSTS:** 18 x SET/GSET.

**HOSPITALS WITHIN THE SOUTHERN HUB:**

- Casey Hospital (2 posts)
- Dandenong Hospital (4 posts)
- Frankston Hospital (4 posts)
- Latrobe Regional Hospital (2 posts)
- Monash Medical Centre - Clayton (4 posts)
- Monash Medical Centre - Moorabbin (1 post)
- West Gippsland Healthcare Group (1 post)

The Southern Hub is based in South East Melbourne and includes rotations at Monash Health (Monash Medical Centre, Dandenong and Casey Hospitals), Frankston Hospital and rural rotations at Warragul and Latrobe Regional Hospital.

Rotations cover all subspecialties of General Surgery and the Southern Hub also offers a comprehensive educational program including a monthly seminar series and regular tutorials.

All jobs, except for Latrobe Regional Hospital are commutable from the Eastern and South- Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Part time training can be arranged if needed.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## WESTERN HUB

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Dr Yahya Al-Habbal

**CURRENT POSTS:** 14 x SET/GSET.

**HOSPITALS WITHIN THE WESTERN HUB:**

- Bendigo Health (1 post)
- Goulburn Valley Health (1 post)
- Launceston General Hospital (1 post)
- Sunshine Hospital (3 posts)
- Werribee Mercy Hospital (1 post)
- Western (Footscray) Hospital (5 posts)
- Williamstown Hospital (1 post)
- Northeast Health Wangaratta (1 post)

**Hub Overview:**

- Surgical Fellows: 4 (Colorectal, UGI/HPB, Endocrine and Vascular)
- Unaccredited Registrars: 14
- Emergency on Call: Yes
- Endoscopy Access: Yes
- Accommodation: Not applicable unless on rotation away from Western
- MWU support: 5/5

Western Hub is a major teaching facility in the Western suburbs spread over 3 locations: Footscray Hospital (360 beds), Sunshine Hospital in St Albans (426 beds) and Williamstown Hospital in Williamstown (90 beds). Western Hub is a fast-growing organisation due to the ever-increasing spread of the Western suburbs. This location provides a varied mix of morbidities and cultural challenges due to a mix in ethnicity of our patients. This translates to busy surgical units, which not only provide trainees with quantity in clinical exposure but also diversity in the surgical problems managed. There is a weekly teaching programme for all trainees and regular simulation workshops run through the year at the state of the art simulation centre at Sunshine campus. All trainees are encouraged to participate in clinical research and their work is presented during the Western Research week. There is a strong record of success at part 2 general surgery exams, highlighting the quality of its education and clinical teaching.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## WESTERN HUB CONT.

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**Jobs Overview:** There are three main campuses trainees will rotate to. Footscray Hospital is the hub for all speciality surgical services including: Colorectal, Upper GI & Hepatobiliary, Endocrine surgery, Vascular and Thoracic/ UGI. The three specialty jobs at Footscray offer high volume, complex specialist surgical experience. Trainees often are involved with 130-150 major cases per rotation. Trainees will also rotate into the Thoracic/Upper GI and Vascular units, which are unique advantages of the hub.

Sunshine Hospital is one of the fastest growing facilities in the Western Hub and is home to the very busy consultant- led Acute Surgical Unit. Breast general surgery is also based at Sunshine and offers a broad range of experience in Breast surgery and participation in general surgical on-call. The significant volume of acute work in Sunshine gives trainees an excellent operating experience, which is invaluable.

Williamstown is a sub-acute hospital with a mostly elective/day surgery function. While there is no emergency work here, trainees gain a valuable exposure to the staple of elective general surgical procedures. The Williamstown trainee participates in the on-call roster for general surgery at Footscray.

Western Hub trainees will also rotate to Werribee Mercy Hospital, Goulbourn Valley Base Hospital, Wangaratta Base Hospital, Launceston General Hospital and Bendigo Base Hospital. Addition of new country rotations at Wangaratta, Launceston and Bendigo have strengthened our surgical program, where trainees gain broad clinical experience and develop their leadership skills.

**The Supports:** Traditionally a small hub, trainees get to know each other well and this has established a camaraderie and support network that is so important during the challenging times of training. The official supports are also robust. There is an excellent Medical Work Force unit that is understanding and supportive of the unique challenges of surgical training. They are always available to work with trainees to balance the service requirements with training/exam and personal commitments, which allow for a balanced work experience.

The Western Hub also has a record of candidates passing the fellowship exam in the first year of attempt. This is testament to the teaching and mentoring commitment of the surgical consultants at the hub. The academic programme includes a weekly registrar presentation with consultant led teaching on the topic. This is video-linked to the Sunshine campus and presentations made available to all the trainees electronically. To complement theoretical study, there is an annual series of practical workshops run at the state of art simulation lab in Sunshine. These include anastomosis, laparoscopic skills and laparoscopic animal workshops.

Overall the Western hub provides a strong clinical, operating and academic experience for its general surgical trainees with its unique blend of volume, variety and complexity in its general surgical practice.

# VIC-TAS Hubs & Rotations Overview

## ST VINCENT'S HUB

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**HUB SUPERVISOR:** Dr Michael Johnston

**CURRENT POSTS:** 9 x SET/GSET.

### HOSPITALS WITHIN THE ST VINCENT'S HUB:

- Goulburn Valley Health (1 post)
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute (2 posts)
- St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (4 posts)
- Tasmanian Health Service - North West (Burnie) (1 post)
- Werribee Mercy (1 post)

The St Vincent's Hub is a major metropolitan surgical training scheme combining rotations from St Vincent's, Peter MacCallum, Werribee Mercy and rural rotations through Burnie in Tasmania. The relationship with Royal Melbourne and Southwest Regional Hubs allows for some flexibility of rotations peripherally. It is ideal for trainees who are metropolitan focused and have a subspecialty interest to pursue long term.

St Vincent's Hub offers a full range of all sub-specialties, including HPB, Upper GI, Colorectal, Breast & Endocrine surgery. It is one of very few hubs in the country that can guarantee that all trainees will do a tertiary level rotation in every subspecialty at their home hub in the lead up to the exam. For this reason, trainee's desires to continue in General Surgery or Sub-specialty training can be accommodated with a tailored plan and individualised mentoring.

St Vincent's runs a regular teaching program through the Department of Surgery and through individual units with weekly tutorials and separate exam preparation sessions. The Department of Surgery and the individual units offer support to undertake research before and during the training program and offer further support to continue in a Fellowship position once obtaining the FRACS in either a research or clinical based position.

Fellowship positions are available at St Vincent's in Colorectal, HPB/UGI, Breast and Endocrine Surgery.

# TIMS Overview

The Trainee Information Management System (TIMS) provides all Trainees with the ability to view accurate and current information relating to their training.

TIMS allows trainees to view their training profile and to action the following activities:

- Submit/complete assessments and logbooks
- Submit trainee requests
- View hospital rotations
- View complete and outstanding requirements
- View training start date, expected end date and maximum training date

TIMS is accessible through the GSA website ([www.generalsurgeons.com.au](http://www.generalsurgeons.com.au)) via the member login option, enter your RACS ID and password.

**PLEASE NOTE: Only access TIMS in Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge for optimal functionality - DO NOT access TIMS through Safari.**

If your contact details have changed for any reason, please update TIMS immediately or contact the VIC-TAS Regional Office to advise.

# Trainee Requests

Trainee requests are reviewed by the VIC-TAS Training Committee. Requests can be submitted at any time during your time on the General Surgery Training Program to communicate your needs, movements, and completion of specific requirements.

Trainee requests need to be submitted to the VIC-TAS Training Committee using either the Trainee Information Management System (TIMS) for GSET or Trainee Management System (TMS) for SET and all leave requests must be submitted no later than 30 June.

There are several reasons for submitting a Trainee Request:

- Interruption to Training: Parental Leave, Medical Leave or Personal.
- Interruption to Training: Research
- Other: Used for 'other matters' such as a small exemption of a requirement due to valid reasons.
- Overseas Training
- Flexible Training - Part Time or Split Rotation
- RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning): Skills Courses
- Accelerated Learning
- Additional Clinical Training
- Transfer Region
- Transfer Hub
- Extension to Training
- Withdrawal from General Surgery

**Requests must be submitted by the trainee request deadline. Failure to do so may delay the request until the next meeting.**

It is important to discuss requests with your supervisor as they need to be aware of the circumstances surrounding your request. Additionally, some requests require you to include a letter of support from your supervisor.

All requests will be reviewed and discussed by the VIC-TAS Training Committee, who will then make a recommendation to ABiGS. ABiGS provide final approval/non-approval and will communicate the outcome directly to trainees.

## Research

### RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

The VIC-TAS Research Subcommittee reviews all trainee requests pertaining to research including research RPL, research pre-approval and completion of the research requirement.

The Subcommittee makes recommendation to the VIC-TAS Training Committee, who in turn makes recommendations to the Australian Board in General Surgery for final approval (except research pre-approvals which only require approval from the Regional Training Committee).

Further information on the Research Requirements can be found in the relevant SET or GSET Training Regulations. Trainee request deadline dates are listed on the GSA website.

# GSET Logbooks

GSET Trainees will use the Australian Board in General Surgery Logbook. The General Surgery Logbook is based on a pre-defined list of procedures, each of which is assigned a number of points. Points are then awarded based on the supervision level when procedures are approved.

Colonoscopy and Endoscopy procedures will also be entered into the General Surgery Logbook and will be counted as per the Regulations.

## **ACCESS TO GENERAL SURGERY LOGBOOK**

The General Surgery Logbook can be accessed via TIMS. Your current rotation will automatically be allocated. Once your rotation is rated, your next rotation will also be automatically allocated, however if you have procedures that need to be entered for your previous term, you will still have the ability to enter that information.

## **WHEN ARE POINTS AND SCOPE NUMBERS UPDATED TO YOUR PROGRESS BAR**

Your points and scope number will be shown in the progress bar once your rotation is marked as Meeting Performance Expectation.

# Surgical Education & Assessment Module

Trainees who commence on the General Surgical Education and Training (SET or GSET) Program in General Surgery will be required to complete the Surgical Education and Assessment Modules (SEAM).

SEAM is an online e-learning program comprising eight (8) modules, which have been developed by the Australian Board in General Surgery. Trainees must successfully complete the following modules during the first two (2) clinical years of SET in General Surgery:

1. Acute Abdomen
2. Anatomy
3. Haematology
4. Nutrition
5. The Operating Theatre
6. Peri-operative Care
7. Post-Operative Care (including Rehabilitation and Palliative Care)
8. Trauma & Critical Care

Successful completion of each module is defined as achieving the minimum pass mark in the summative assessment for each module.

Further information regarding the regulations governing SEAM is outlined in the Training Regulations which can be accessed on the GSA website: [www.generalsurgeons.com.au](http://www.generalsurgeons.com.au) via Education and Training - Regulations & Forms.

Instructions on accessing SEAM are outlined in the procedures manual on the GSA website: [www.generalsurgeons.com.au](http://www.generalsurgeons.com.au) via Education and Training - SEAM.

## TO ACCESS SEAM MODULES

1. Go to [www.generalsurgeons.com.au](http://www.generalsurgeons.com.au)
2. Select the 'Member Login' button
3. Enter your RACS ID and password
4. Once in the members lounge, select SEAM

It is recommended that you use your personal computer (not a public or hospital computer) and only one browser (preferably Firefox) when completing modules. This will ensure that your answers are saved and only accessible by you over multiple sessions. There have been compatibility issues with Internet Explorer 9, Safari and Moodle. We recommend installing Firefox to avoid progression issues.

**Please Note: Trainees who do not satisfactorily complete all eight (8) modules by mid-term in the second term of their second clinical year will be recommended for dismissal from the Training Program.**

# VIC-TAS Educational Sessions & Courses

The VIC/TAS Training Committee provide ongoing education to their trainees through access to regular hospital tutorial programs, exam preparation courses and events throughout each year.

The 2026 Education Program, Courses and Events are still in planning stages, further information including dates, times, venues and registration details that are relevant to you, will be distributed by email or alternately found under the calendar on the GSA Website.

## **VICTORIAN TRAINEES' WEEKEND**

**Chairs: Dr Benjamin Privett, FRACS**

This event has gradually expanded to become relevant to both junior and senior trainees - the two-day event includes small group discussions, research presentations, didactic lectures and debates.

This event offers key information to trainees to assist with progression in the Surgical Education Training program in General Surgery, particularly in the lead up to sitting the Fellowship Examination.

Trainees who attend the two (2) days at the Victorian Trainees Weekend will count this attendance towards one (1) of the four (4) compulsory GSA Trainees' Days.

# National Educational Program

## **TRAINEES' DAY REQUIREMENT**

The GSA Trainees' Day is a National educational activity, held twice each year as follows:

### **MAY**

- Virtual program, delivered via GSA Online
- usually held on the Monday of the RACS Annual Scientific Conference week

### **OCTOBER**

- face-to-face
- held the day before the GSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- location rotates around Australia

The program aims to cover the breadth of the General Surgery Curriculum, over a five-year cycle. GSA Trainees' Day programs are recorded, and where presenter consent is provided, published as part of the GSA Webcast program for access by all Trainees.

Trainees must attend at least four (4) Trainees' Days over the course of their training. GSET Trainees are required to attend a minimum of two (2) face-to-face Trainees' Days, or their equivalent, to meet the Training Requirement.

## **GSA EQUIVALENT PROGRAMS**

The following GSA programs may also count towards one (1) of the four (4) compulsory Trainees' Days:

### **GSA MANAGEMENT OF SURGICAL EMERGENCIES (MOSES) COURSE**

- open to GSET 4 and above
- face-to-face
- held twice a year in April/May and October

### **GSA (VICTORIAN) TRAINEES' WEEKEND**

Minimum of two (2) days attendance at the GSA (Victorian) Trainees' Weekend

- open to all Trainees, regardless of region
- face-to-face
- usually held in June

## **OTHER EQUIVALENT PROGRAMS**

There are other courses that may contribute to the Trainees' Day Requirement. Please refer to the Regulations for further details.

# Who to contact?

Although the VIC-TAS Regional Office is here to help, it may save you time to go directly to the people that can make a difference.

If your query relates to:

- **Hospital Training issues** - contact first the Unit Supervisor, then your Hospital Supervisor
- **Employment/Human Resources** - contact the Hospital Administration or Alma Mater Hospital Administration.
- **Training experience** - contact your Unit or Hospital Supervisor
- **Term Allocations** - contact your Hospital Supervisor
- **SEAM** - email [admin@generalsurgeons.com.au](mailto:admin@generalsurgeons.com.au)

For any other issues e.g. TIMS Issues, Trainee Requirements, Training Regulations, Trainee Requests please contact the VIC-TAS Regional Office.

## **RACS SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Coping with the demands of a busy profession, maintaining/developing skills and knowledge whilst also balancing family/personal commitments can be difficult and challenging. RACS recognises that Trainees may face demanding situations on a daily basis and therefore offer a confidential Support Program.

RACS is committed to providing support to surgeons to assist them appropriately through difficult situations. Information about the RACS Support Program can be found on the RACS Website: <https://www.surgeons.org/about-racs/Wellbeing/racs-support-program>

## **DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has a zero tolerance policy concerning unreasonable behaviour from its Trainees, Fellows and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs). RACS is committed to building a culture of respect in surgery and improving patient safety through identifying and addressing unacceptable behaviours. Behaviours considered unacceptable are detailed in the Unacceptable Behaviours fact sheet available on the RACS website.

RACS has a formal process for lodgement of complaints relating to discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment. More information can be found on the RACS website or by calling the RACS Complaints Hotline: 1800 892 491.

# Important Contacts

## GSA STAFF

Sarah Benson	Deputy CEO & Executive General Manager - Operations
Fiona Bull	Executive General Manager - Education & Training Delivery
Sally Erickson	Manager - Member Engagement & Events
Chelsea Heslop	Training Coordinator / VIC-TAS Administrative Officer
Erin Purcell	Program Coordinator - Online Education, Research & Recognition

## ABIGS AND VIC-TAS TRAINING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Dr Sarah Martin	Chair, VIC-TAS Training Committee
Dr Damien Loh	Deputy Co-Chair, VIC-TAS Training Committee
A/Prof Gabby Vasica	Chair, Australian Board in General Surgery
Dr Edward Clarke	Trainee Representative

# VIC-TAS Trainee Representative

## TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE - DR EDWARD CLARKE

The role as the VIC-TAS Trainee Representative is to ensure that all VIC-TAS trainees in General Surgery are adequately represented with the issues that are of concern to them and/or their training. Specific, or local interests will be advocated for at the VIC-TAS Training Committee meetings and more general training issues will be discussed at the Training Representative Subcommittee meetings. Trainees are encouraged to contact the VIC-TAS Trainee Representative should you require any advice or support.

### Dr Edward Clarke

**M:** 0432270497

**E:** [clarke\\_edward@yahoo.com.au](mailto:clarke_edward@yahoo.com.au)



# Hub & Hospital Supervisors

## HUB SUPERVISORS

The Alfred Hub	Dr Damian Loh
Austin Northern Hub	A/Prof Vijayaragavan Muralidharan Dr David Proud
Eastern Hub	Dr Vinna An
Royal Melbourne Hub	Dr Tim Furlong
South West Regional Hub	Prof Glenn Guest
Southern Hub	Ms Corinne Loh
St Vincent's Hub	Dr Michael Johnston
Western Hub	Dr Yahya Al-Habbal

## HOSPITAL SUPERVISORS

Albury-Wodonga Health	Dr Michelle Larkin
Alfred Hospital	Dr Damien Loh
Angliss Health Service	Dr Marli Williams
Austin Hospital	A/Prof Vijayaragavan Muralidharan Dr David Proud
Ballarat Base Hospital Campus	Dr Sujith Krishnamoorthy
Bendigo Hospital	Dr Chon Hann Liew
Box Hill Hospital & Angliss Health Service	Dr Vinna An
Casey Hospital	Dr Seow Loh
Central Gippsland Health	Dr Masimba Nyandowe
Colac Hospital	Dr Duminda Gunawardane
Dandenong Hospital	Dr Sarah Martin
Echuca Regional Health	Dr Victoria Jenkins
Epworth Geelong Hospital	Prof Glenn Guest
Epworth Richmond Hospital	Dr Daniel Foley
Footscray Hospital	Dr Yahya Al-Habbal
Frankston Hospital	Dr Tristan Leech
Geelong Hospital	Prof Glenn Guest
Goulburn Valley Health	Dr Frans Pretorius

# Important Contacts

## HOSPITAL SUPERVISORS

Hamilton Base Hospital	Dr Uvarasen Naidoo
Latrobe Regional Hospital	Dr Siva Ravindran
Launceston General Hospital	Dr Simon Bazaadut
Maroondah Hospital	Dr Evan Dyer
Mildura Base Hospital	Dr Irene Kaiboni
Monash Medical Centre - Clayton	Dr Geraldine Ooi
Monash Medical Centre - Moorabbin	Dr Eugenia Ip
North East Health Wangaratta	Dr Matthew Shears
North West Regional Hospital	Dr Jonathan Fong
Northern Hospital	Dr Krinalkumar Mori
Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute	Dr Hayden Snow
Royal Hobart Hospital	Dr Tobias Evans
Royal Melbourne Hospital	Dr Tim Furlong
Sandringham & District Memorial Hospital	Dr Larissa Freeman
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne	Dr Cori Behrenbruch
Sunshine Hospital	Dr Yahya Al-Habbal
Warrnambool Hospital - South West Healthcare	Dr Joseph Ragg
Werribee Mercy Hospital	Dr Zeng Yap
West Gippsland Healthcare Group	Dr Paul Ah-Tye
Williamstown Hospital	Dr Yahya Al-Habbal
Wimmera Base	Dr Nicole Campbell