THE VMA EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM: THREE YEARS ON
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Background
The Victorian Metropolitan Alliance (VMA) Education Enhancement Program (EEP) has been operating now for a number of years and has developed effective guidelines for managing registrars with difficulties. These guidelines are continually being reviewed and refined, ensuring that best practice is being followed. The VMA Berwick facility, which opened in November 2011, has been a significant development in the EEP. Three years ago the VMA took the step of making the services and expertise of the EEP available to other organisations. Since that time, the EEP has conducted:

- Several formal assessments on registrars referred by other regional training providers (RTPs)
- Several focused educational interventions for doctors referred by the Medical Board or by medical indemnity organisations.

Objective
To demonstrate that broader experiences in the area of education enhancement are invaluable with respect to improving:

- Medical educator skills
- Processes of assessment.

Approach
This presentation will report on:

- The work of the EEP, specifically with respect to the referrals from other organisations
- The methods that are utilised in assessment
- The nature of the educational interventions
- Some of the challenges that have been encountered.

Findings
Quite valuable lessons have been learnt from the formal assessments and each assessment has helped to inform and improve assessment processes. The educational interventions have addressed some of the more common problems that result in doctors being reported to the Medical Board. Challenges have also been encountered with regard to the engagement of the doctor or registrar and tailoring learning plans to individual contexts.

Discussion
Discussion will focus on how other RTPs can learn from the experiences of the EEP and:

- Develop similar processes and programs
- Better manage GP registrars with difficulties
- Some thoughts will also be presented on possible future activities and directions for the EEP.