

Methodology and Foreword

- The GP and General Practice Surveys were conducted by Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice (the Division) in collaboration with Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV).
- This report brings together the results of a survey conducted with practitioners and practice managers in the Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice.
- The survey was a self-completion questionnaire completed in Quarter 4 2010 and Quarter 1 2011.
- This is an overview of the results obtained within the Division and is limited to these, without drawing on results from other divisions within the State nor nationally.
- While these results in themselves are held valid and true for Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice, there may be further benefit from drawing comparisons to other divisions at a later stage.
- For the full outline of the survey responses please email reception@cwgdgp.com.au

Response Rates—General Practice

PRACTICES	Persons	Proportion of population
Practices in the Division	32*	-
Survey Participants	24	75%
Participants excluded from State (RWAV) Dataset by request	0	0%
No response/Declined to participate	3	9%
Excluded/Unavailable	3	9%

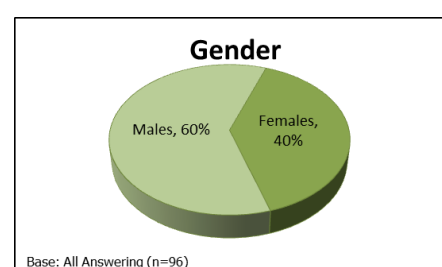
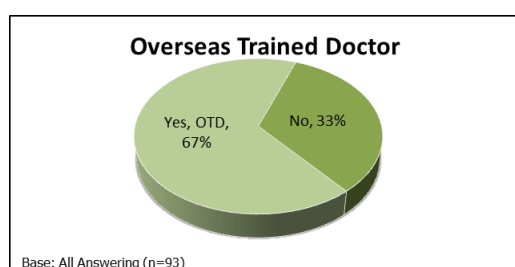
Response Rates—general practitioners

PRACTITIONERS	Persons	Proportion of population
GP's in the Division	131	-
Survey Participants	96	73%
Participants excluded from State (RWAV) Dataset by request	14	11%
No response/Declined to participate	17	13%
On leave / Unavailable	4	3%

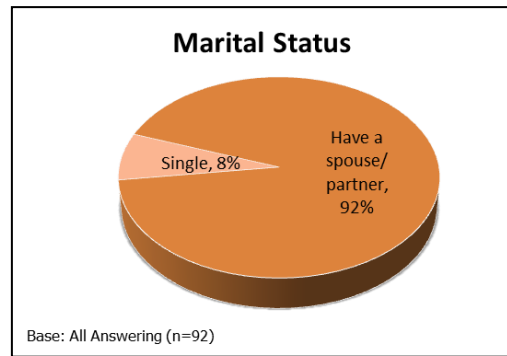
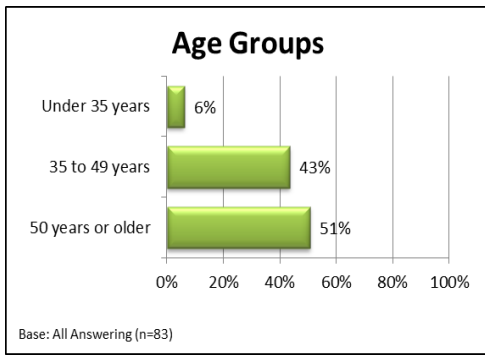
*There are 34 practice sites, however one practice has 3 sites.

Core Demographics

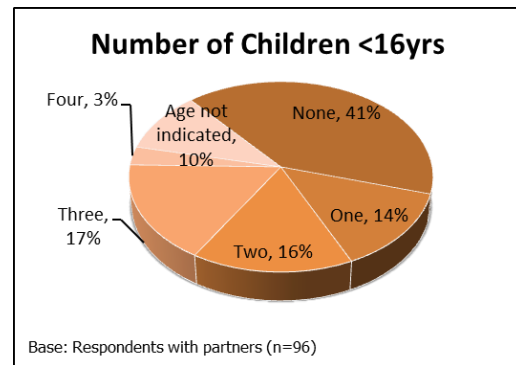
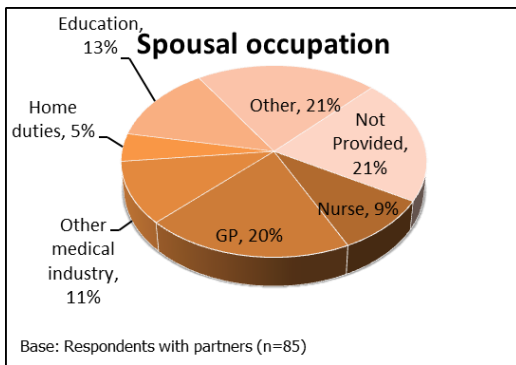
- General Practitioners working within the Division were more likely to be older males, over the age of 50. While more than half of doctors in the over 50 age group trained overseas, general practitioners under the age of 50 were more likely to be Overseas Trained Doctors (OTD).
- About two thirds (67%) of GPs in CWG reported being Overseas Trained Doctors.
- About half (49%) of all respondents were under 50 years of age but this proportion was as high as 73% among the OTD.
- Nearly all respondents (92%) had a partner or spouse and most also had children under the age of 16 years (59%).
- Nearly all respondents (92%) had a spouse or partner, many of whom (40%) were employed in the medical industry. Notably, few respondents reported that their partner required assistance with study, employment or networking.
- More than half (59%) reported having children under the age of 16 years but only about one in five were Rural Medical Family Network members.



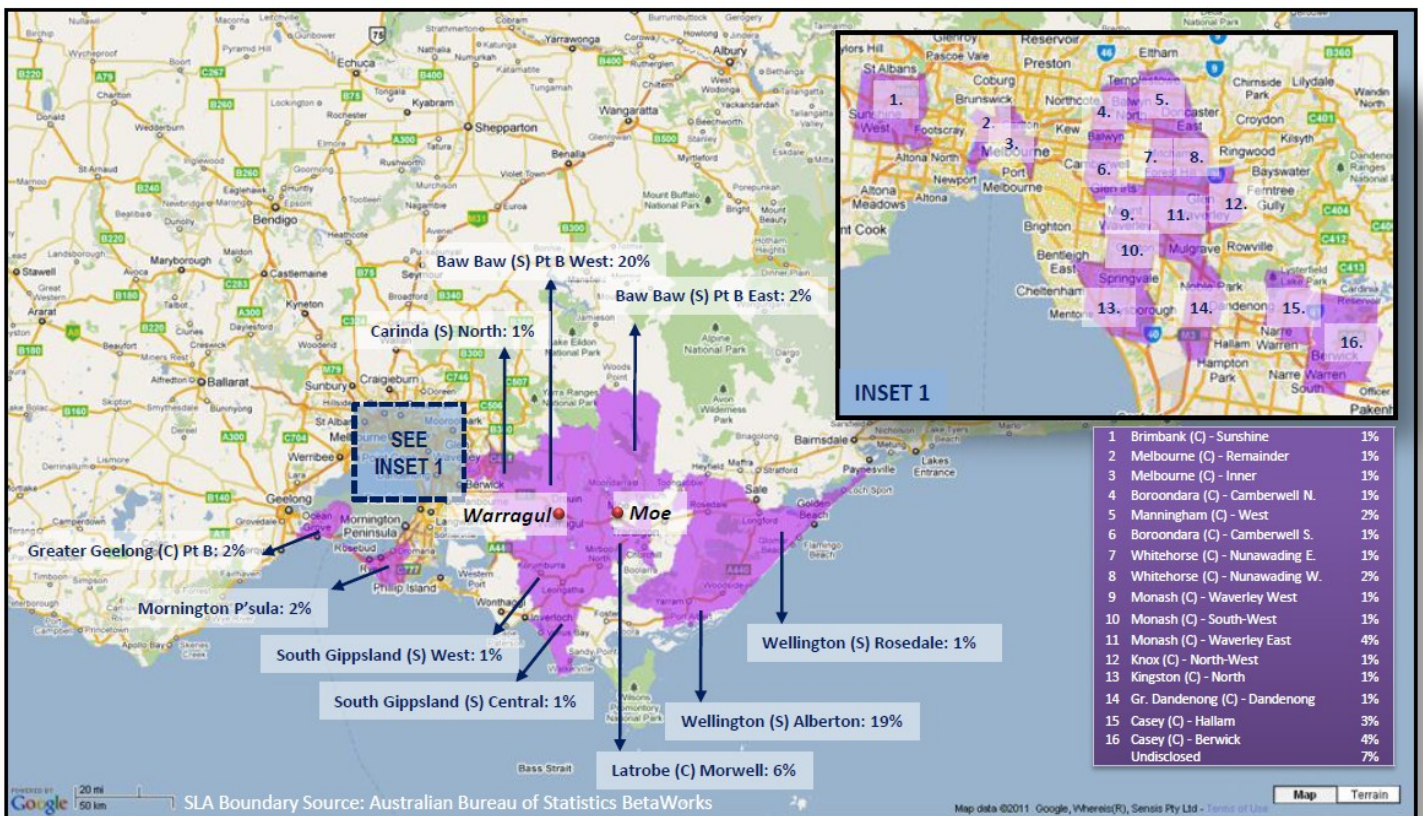
Core Demographics continued



	Males	Females	Total
Average Age (Years):	58.5	47.3	49.8
	Under 50 years		Over 50 years
OTD	73%		59%
Locally Trained	28%		41%



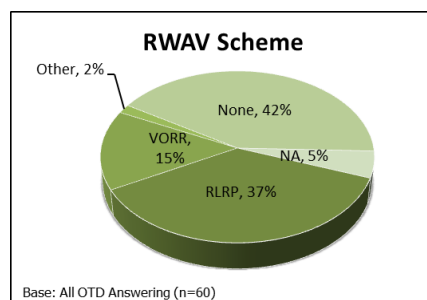
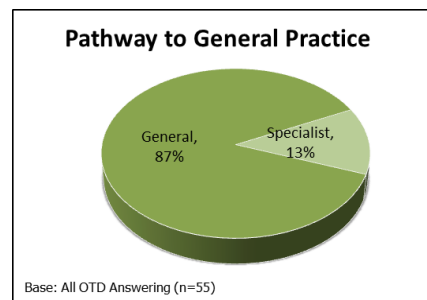
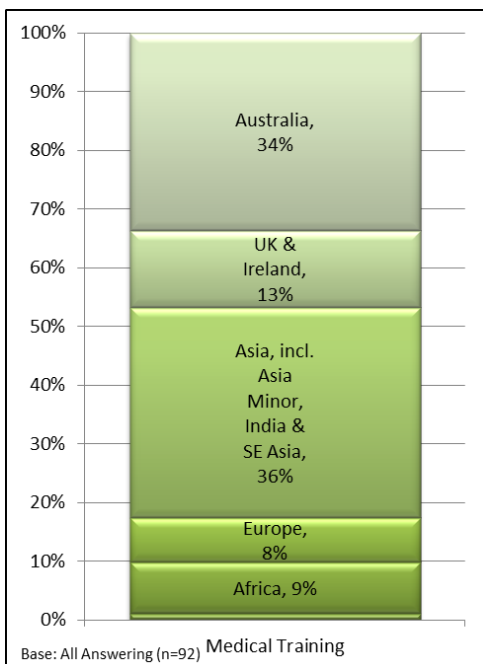
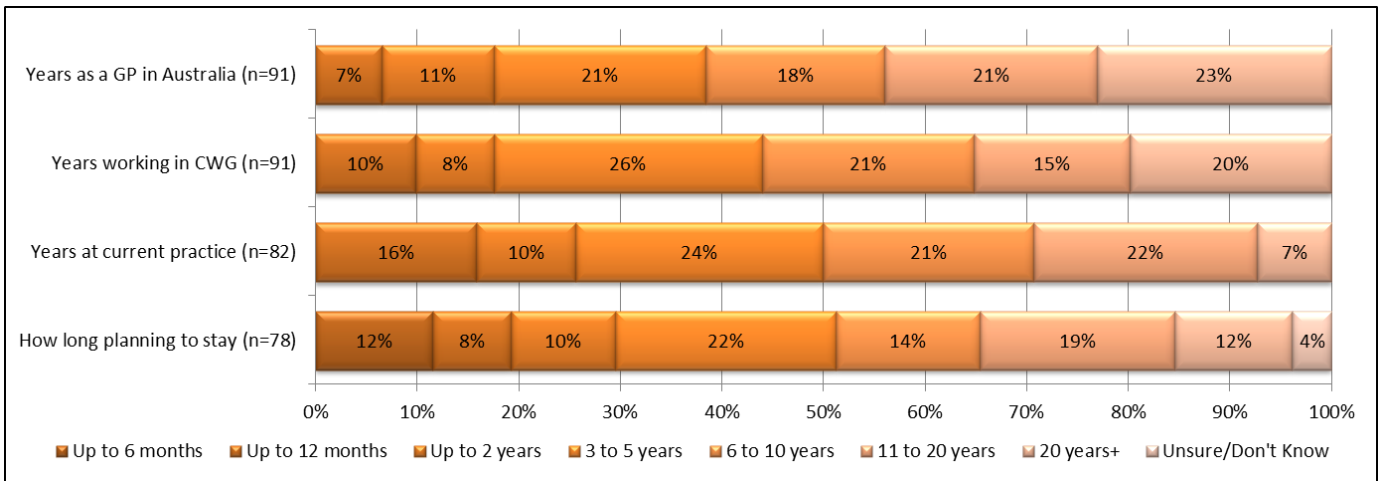
GP Home Location and Practice Location



- Considering the location of most clinics, it could be little surprise to find that most practitioners' homes were also west of Moe. Nonetheless, one in five (21%) of respondents reported that their home is in the Greater Metropolitan area of Melbourne
- Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice—GP Survey Executive Summary

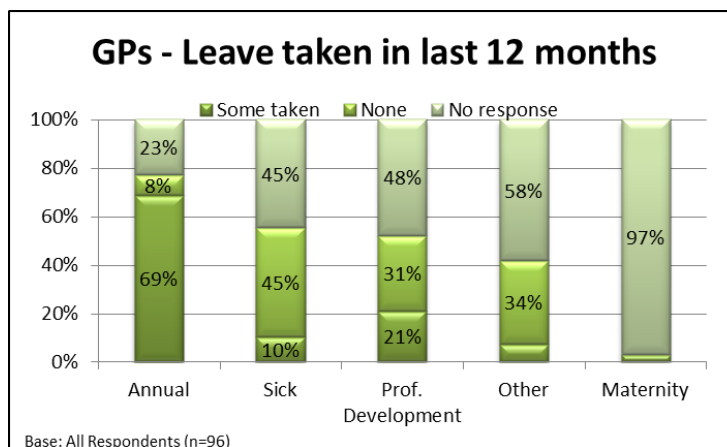
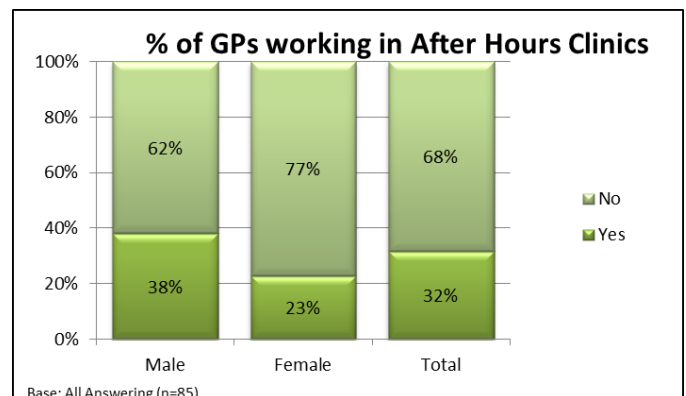
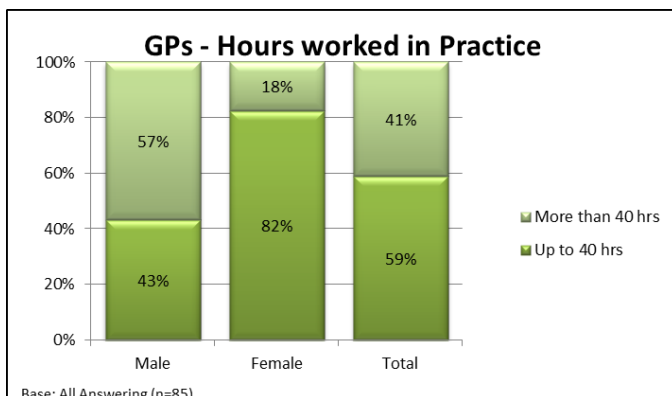
Overseas Trained Doctors

- About one third of OTDs obtained their training in Asia (36%), with a further 13% training in the UK, 8% in the rest of Europe and 9% in Africa.
- About one quarter (25%) of OTDs have worked as a GP in Australia for less than 2 years, with a further 27% working for 3-5 years.
- A total of 35% of OTDs reported planning to stay where they are for less than 2 years, including 13% planning to stay up to 6 months more.
- The majority (62%) of participants reported working as a GP (in Australia) more than 5 years, with a similar result in relation to working in CWG. One quarter of OTDs have been working in Australia for less than 2 years, with one in 10 working in Australia less than 12 months.
- About two thirds (67%) of respondents reported planning to stay in their current location beyond 2 years. A tendency to move within the division was also indicated by the high proportion of respondents in their current practice for less than 1 year (16%) compared to those in CWG for the same period (10%).
- Although sample for non-OTD practitioners was low, the results suggest that OTDs were somewhat less likely to be planning to stay in their current situation for more than 2 years. Specifically, 35% were planning no more than 2 years, with 13% planning to stay only up to 6 months.
- Most respondents reported that they were not participants in the *Southern GP Training* program and were not receiving supervision through other programs.
- A little over one third (38%) reported preparing for the RACGP Fellowship Exam and half of these expected to sit the exam before the end of 2011.



Hours of Work

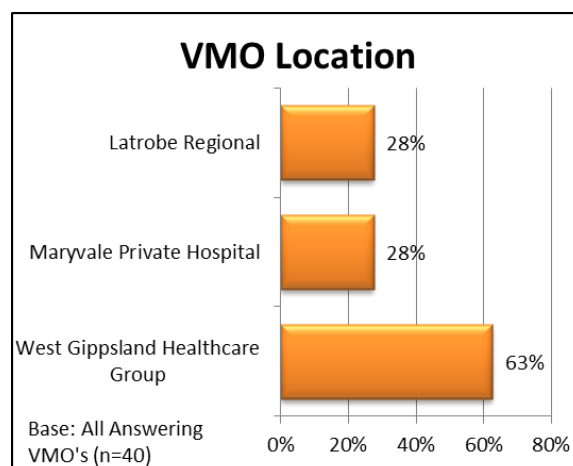
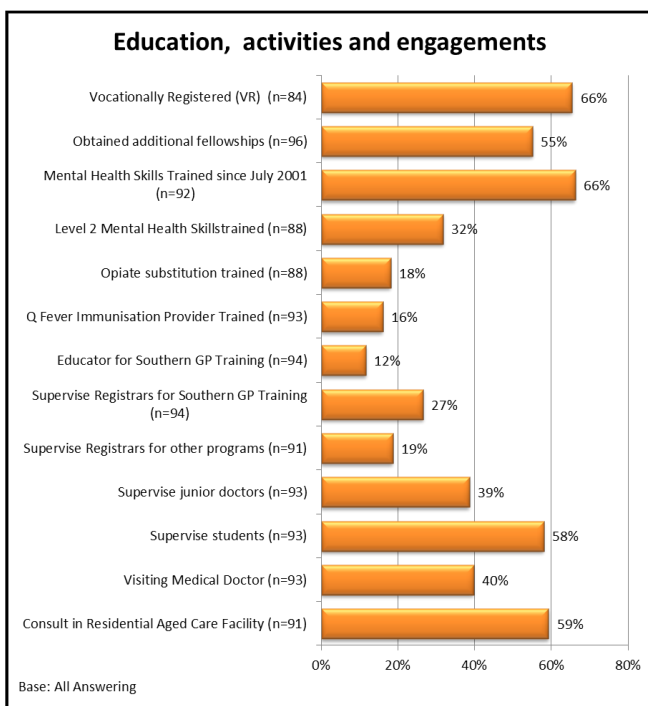
- The average working week of 43 hours was taken up mostly by work at a general practice.
- Being on call 24/7 was not uncommon, but the average was 27 hours per week.
- The reported hours actually working while on call was 7 hours per week.
- Although most (59%) of respondents reported working up to 40 hours per week, male practitioners were substantially more likely to report working longer hours than their female counterparts (57% cf. 18%).
- Overall, about one third of all participants reported working in an After-hours clinic, but in light of the above, it was not surprising to find the proportion higher among male practitioners.
- The overall average work week was reported to consist of 39 hours on main tasks including working in a clinic, hospital, as a locum, teaching/supervising and as a GP representative. Nonetheless, some respondents reported working up to 72 hours in these roles.
- Most respondents (69%) reported taking some annual leave in the 12 months prior to completing the survey.



Education, activities and engagements

- About half of respondents obtained an additional fellowship in the last 12 months.
- Most practitioners (66%) were Vocationally Registered and similar proportions were trained in Mental Health Skills training after July 2001. About half that proportion reported having Level 2 Mental Health Skills training.
- Many practitioners reported consulting in Residential Aged Care Facilities (59%), supervising Registrars for SouthernGP Training (27%), or other programs (19%), supervising junior doctors (39%) or students (58%).
- Fewer than half of respondents were VMO's.
- Minor surgery, local anaesthetics, obstetrics and emergency care were the most common types of activities practiced by respondents.
- About two thirds had undertaken Mental Health Skills Training since July 2001.

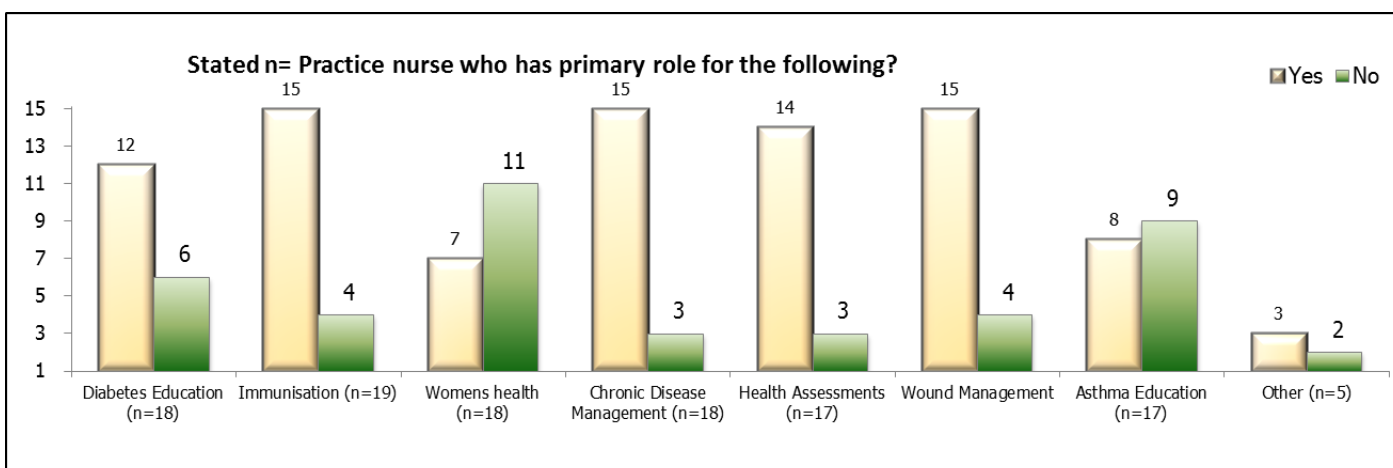
Education, activities and engagements



General Practice—Provision of Clinical Placements

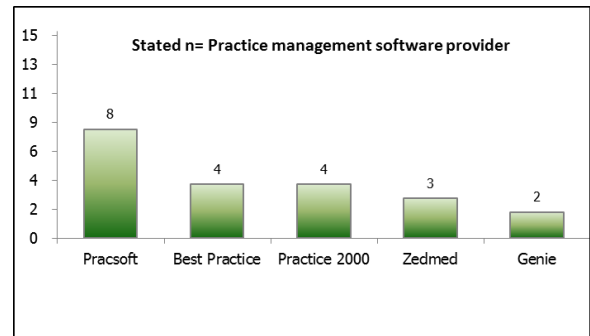
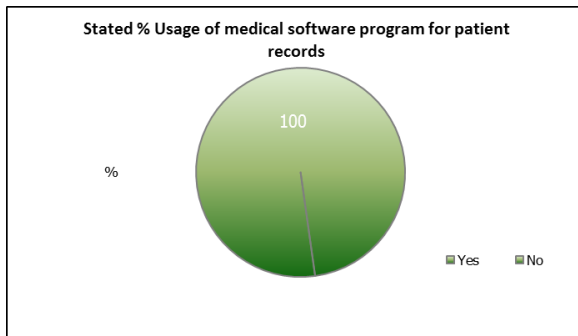
Does the clinic provide clinical placements for junior doctors in the Pre-Vocational General Practice Placement Program?		Does the practice provide placement for medical students?		Does the practice provide clinical placement for nursing students?	
Yes (n=)	No (n=)	Yes (n=)	No (n=)	Yes (n=)	No (n=)
4	20	17	7	9	15
Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
16.7%	83.3%	70.8%	29.2%	37.5%	62.5%
Total		Total		Total	
100%		100%		100%	

General Practice—Practice Nurses



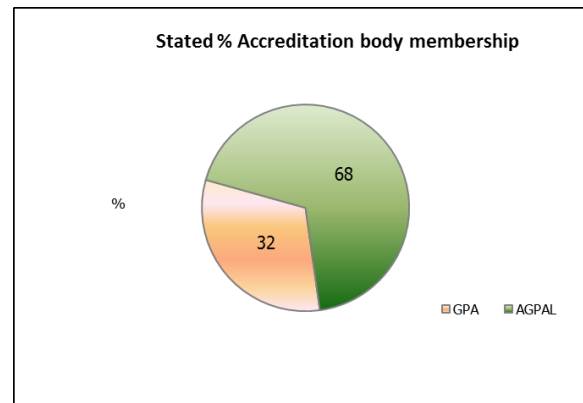
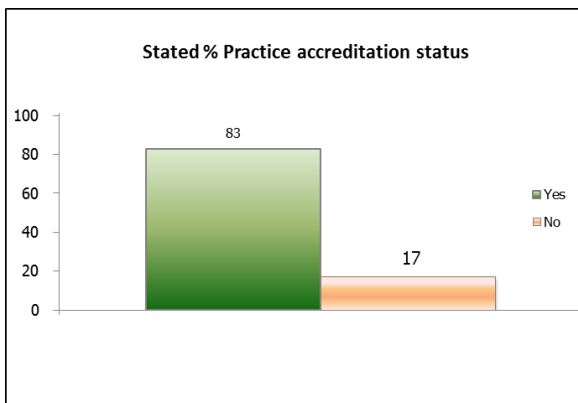
General Practice—Information Technology

- “Medical Director” was cited as the most commonly used Clinical Management software package in the clinical Management sphere (n=15), whilst “Pracsoft” featured strongly as a software package of choice for Practice Management software duties



General Practice—Accreditation Body Membership

- A significant proportion of Practices hold accreditation status (83%). A majority of accreditation body memberships are held with AGPAL (68.9%), whilst 32% of the respondents holding Accreditation membership with GPA.



General Practice—Indigenous and Refugee patient identification

