

From Dave Brock of Tweed Heads, a New Web Site to check out.

CAREER MEDICAL OFFICER'S INFORMATION PAGE

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~davbrock/cmo/cmo.html>

It is in its infancy, yet aims to provide all manner of information for CMO's and to be frequently updated. As its created by CMO's for CMO's, all manner of input is invited, so email me if:

- > you have any comments or suggestions
- > you have meetings to advertise, (eg the current banner advert for the next CMOA meeting)
- > there is information you want disseminated,
- > you want a "link" posted to your web-site,
- > you have anything else of interest to CMOs (not necessarily political). I am curious about how the NSW CMO award came to be. I'd like to post a page on that.)

I also wish to encourage other CMO's to setup their own web-pages. Then the CMO Information page could provide links to their pages. It would be great if one CMO could provide an up-to-date conference listing, another a medical links page, another an educational page, etc. It is surprisingly easy to set up a web-page. In learning how to do this myself, I am eager to show others how easy this can be. So if you want to know how to set up your own web-page email me. davbrock@ozemail.com.au

Credits

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Financial Report

Monthly Cash Flow 30/09/96 Through 1/04/98

INCOME

Conference/Inaugural Meeting	\$1,250.00
Interest	\$5.11
Annual Subscriptions	\$7,800.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$9,055.11</u>

EXPENSES

Advertising	\$1,344.00
Annual Conference	\$1,400.00
Bank Charges FID	\$7.51
Public Liability Insurance	\$223.00
Internet	\$335.00
Legal	\$100.00
Office	\$474.66
Printing Bulletin	\$1,327.20
Stationary	\$100.00

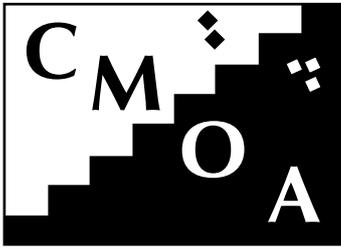
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5,311.37**

INCOME LESS EXPENSES **\$3,743.74**

Disclaimer

Important: Read This

The views expressed within this publication are those of the authors, who enjoy freedom of speech and use it regularly. They are therefore occasionally neither wise nor politically correct. Neither do they necessarily represent the view of the CMOA.



CMO Bulletin

Newsletter of the Career Medical Officers Association Inc

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President's Address

We are living in interesting times, which as far as CMOs are concerned is probably a curse, however if we play our cards right and become really involved it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

What makes life so interesting is that, at the very time we were thinking that we should form an association of like-minded people, the Federal Govt. decided to change the ground rules for independent practice. We now have the real possibility of up to 400 medical graduates per year with no chance of getting onto the training programs of the College of General Practitioners or the Specialist Colleges. These people will become defacto CMOs—they have nowhere else to go.

As a direct consequence of the restrictions of the Provider Number Legislation, the Federal Government set up the MTRP (Medical Training Review Panel) to look at the “fall out” of this hastily prepared and, in many ways, ill-considered law. All agree that the restrictions on provider numbers were put there to save money—less providers equals less cost to the government—however it soon became obvious that no one really knew the consequences of this radical legislation. How many training posts are available to recent graduates, how fair are the selection criteria for these positions, what alternative work is possible for junior doctors and what educational and training resources are in place to support them? Most would think that these questions should have been answered before the legislation was enacted, however anyone with more than passing contact with government health policy will not be surprised at this “shoot first, ask questions later” approach.

Thus the MTRP. In spite of being a committee with the role of cleaning up the mess after the horse has bolted, it has the

potential to provide some much needed data and advice to the Federal Government. The group that is of most interest to CMOs is the HMO Sub-committee—HMO meaning Hospital Medical Officer and including all non-specialist, non-trainee medical practitioners in the hospital system (basically interns, RMO1 &2 and CMOs). I am the only CMO representative among approximately 15 other people. The initial report of this subcommittee was reasonable, covering as it did standards in education and support for the first two years of post-graduate practice—PGY1 & 2.

This group is now turning its attention to PGY3+ (post-graduate year 3 and beyond—ie hospital based CMOs). A steering committee was formed to look into the demographics of this cohort of doctors and one would think that the knowledge and experience of someone who has worked in this role for many years and who has a pivotal position in an association of like-minded medical practitioners would be welcomed with open arms. Not so. I had to ask repeatedly to be included in this steering committee and was only accepted grudgingly when I made a nuisance of myself. Why? I was confused at first but I now believe that the Federal Government is not interested in input from experienced CMOs because it wants very much to control the recent graduates who cannot get onto the training programs. It is in the interests of all health departments (federal and state) to have a captive group that will be forced to stay in the hospital system on low income for up to 4 years after PGY2 (ie Six years after graduation!) before they are “allowed” to enter a training scheme. There may be some colleges that think in similar vein. Indentured labour is the only way to describe this concept and recent graduates are quite right to feel uneasy about the whole process.

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