

The New RANZCOG Curriculum

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This presentation outlines a new curriculum developed by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG). The curriculum is presented as a framework of characteristics and competencies, designed to guide and support the training of specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology in Australia and New Zealand. It is the result of two years of intensive consultation and writing.

The objective of the curriculum is to equip future specialists with the knowledge, skills and professional qualities appropriate to the healthcare needs of women in two countries that comprise a diversity of cultural and Indigenous populations.

This curriculum is also a response to the challenges of functioning in a healthcare system that is in a constant state of flux and facing increasing financial constraints. Furthermore, it is acknowledged that the professional nature of women's healthcare is

undergoing change - through advances in technology, an increased emphasis on medical management rather than surgical options, and the demand for healthcare that involves an informed partnership between specialist and patient.

The curriculum seeks to describe the essential characteristics of a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist who is equipped to practise effectively in this changing healthcare environment. These characteristics are described as:

- Clinical expertise combining medical expertise and effective communication;
- Academic abilities comprising self-learning and research abilities and the capacity to teach; and
- Professional qualities encapsulating management responsibilities, practice review and development, teamwork, ethical attitudes and conduct, a commitment to what is best for the patient, and health advocacy.

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