



*****Media release*****

Record 90 interns start at Austin Health

A record 90 interns started their first rotation in the Austin Health/Northern Health training program on Monday 18 January - the largest number to ever begin in a single intake and the largest program in Victoria.

Manager of HMO Services Sarah McConchie said the program has not only the largest intern intake in Victoria, but also the widest range of rotations.

"We have some really exciting positions this year. We are constantly looking at new and innovative roles to offer interns, to provide them with as broad and meaningful an experience as possible," says Ms McConchie.

During their intern year, the new recruits will complete five 10-week rotations, three of which must be in Surgery, General Medicine and Emergency Medicine.

This year, interns have the opportunity to complete rotations in two new fields – Psychiatry and Forensic Medicine. The Forensic Medicine placement, which will be undertaken at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, is the first of its kind in Victoria.

Dr Sundar Veerapan from Alphington officially starts his career as the first intern in Victoria to do a rotation in Forensic Medicine.

"I'm really interested in the medico-legal aspects of Forensic Medicine, such as how doctors contribute to testimonies," Dr Veerapan said.

There were over 500 applications for the 90 positions available in 2010.

Director of Medical Education Dr Heather Grusauskas said she is delighted that so many new graduates have chosen Austin Health as their employer of choice.

"The medical education unit provides state-of-the-art training and learning opportunities to teach appropriate skills to ensure high quality patient care," Dr Grusauskas said.

The interns have the opportunity to complete placements at the Austin Hospital, Northern Hospital, Bendigo Base Hospital, Echuca Regional Hospital, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and with a General Practitioner in Leongatha.