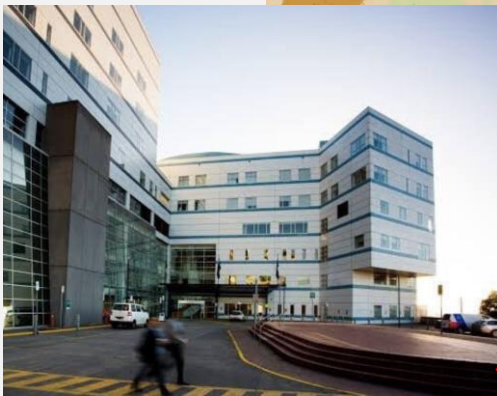


RANZCOG: WORKING TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN IN
AUST NZ AND THE PACIFIC

A/Prof Michael Rasmussen
RANZCOG Vice President

Clinical Director Mercy Hospital for Women Melbourne Australia





CHALLENGES IN AUSTRALIA AND NZ

- Our Populations are changing

- Advanced Maternal Age (esp of first pregnancy)
- Rising rates of High BMI, Gestational Diabetes etc
- Varying attitudes to risk and risk tolerance
- We are not the only source of truth 'Dr Google', Alternative 'providers' and models of care Within and without the system.
- Health Literacy

- Some things stay the same

- The tyranny of distance
- Many families 100's or even 1000s of miles from Medical help.....
- First Nations health outcomes ...
 - some successes...
 - in many aspects health outcomes continue to fall behind

CHALLENGES IN AUSTRALIA AND NZ

- Our work and our outcomes are changing
 - Obstetric intervention rates are rising
 - CS has never been safer
 - CS rate is rising 35-40%
 - CS for 'request' is not uncommon
 - Induction of labour 50%
- For a Low risk term primip, the spontaneous labour and normal birth rate..... is low 30-35%

- Perinatal mortality is static
- Maternal Mortality ?↑
- PPH rates ↑
- CS at full dilatation ↑
- Placenta Accreta ↑
- Birth Trauma rates ↑

CHALLENGES IN AUSTRALIA AND NZ

- Our Workforce is changing
- Training is slow & Graduation is late
- Generalist feels less well prepared
 - Gynaecological surgery is changing
 - Laparoscopic training and skills are slow and difficult to acquire
- EFT per graduate is falling
- Cities well covered
- Outer suburban & Rural areas less well covered

- Our Profession is under Challenge
- From the community
 - Birth trauma & Obstetric interventions
 - Pelvic pain and Endometriosis
 - Mesh outcomes
- From within

RANZCOG RESPONSE

- Selection for training
 - Reduce the weight of references/ equilibrate academic scorings/ award rurality/ award first nations status/ award pretraining experience/ and research performance
- International Medical Graduates
- Curriculum
 - Graduate Outcomes Statement
 - Learning Outcomes for Basic and Advanced training
 - Medical Expert & non Medical Expert
 - Competencies
- Revised Assessments / Examinations
 - Work placed based assessment
 - Ongoing exam changes
 - Revised standard setting
- Revised gynaecological surgery training
- Advocacy work
- Expanded regional rural training supports
- Reviewing the Ob/Gyn specialty itself

RANZCOG & THE PACIFIC

- Pacific Society of Reproductive Health PSRH

- Funding support
- Cross representation

PSRH Board

Dr Rebecca Mitchell

RANZCOG Global Health

Dr Ulai (Tapa) Fidow

- Brian Spurrett Fellowship

RANZCOG & THE PACIFIC

- RANZCOG Pacific Engagement

- Supports Pacific O&G trainees at UPNG and FNU
- Academic Fellowships at UPNG and FNU
- Affiliate Membership is available to Pacific O&G specialists
 - 65 Pacific Affiliate Members (PAMs) from 10 Pacific Island countries,
 - RANZCOG ASM (AOFOG) attendance scholarships
 - Australian Volunteers Program supports registrar placements through Travelling scholarships PNG/ Solomons/ Fiji

- FSEP Training Program in the Pacific

- RANZCOG are rolling out a three-year FSEP Training Program in the Pacific.
- FSEP workshops have been delivered in PNG, Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Samoa.
- 2026 PSRH Conference in collaboration with the Pacific Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Training (PEMNeT) workshop.

RANZCOG & THE PACIFIC

- Ongoing and strengthened support for PSRH
- Cervical Cancer Eradication
 - The time is right for accelerated collaboration
- Support for Curriculum Development
- Support for research
- Foster and Expand the relationships, the friendships, and our shared understanding

