



Consortium Background

The Victorian Public Health Medicine Training Scheme (VPHMTS) has been established to address an identified gap in public health medicine training and workforce capacity. It is a collaboration between the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Victorian Regional Committee of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM), a faculty of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

The Victorian Public Health Medical Scheme (VPHMTS) is a competency-based, work-based training scheme aimed at developing specialist public health medical practitioners with high-level knowledge and skill in public health. The VPHMTS will provide on-the job learning to develop a broad range of applied public health competencies, managerial, professional and operational, through completion of projects aligned with the priorities of the Victorian health system.

The Trainee will rotate through a series of six-month (to a maximum twelve-month) placements in a range of public health settings, including the Department of Health and Human Services, non-government public health agencies and other academic institutions or research institutes. It is anticipated that most trainees will complete 6 six-month placements, and a minimum of 3 placements, over three years.

Through these placements and the projects that they offer, experience is gained in the use of epidemiological tools, population-based health assessment, accessing existing information systems, analysing data and developing new systems to address public health problems and improve health outcomes.

The University of Melbourne led Consortium, consisting of The Alfred, Burnet Institute, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), The Doherty Institute and Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (University of Melbourne) has been tasked with hosting the VPHMTS for 5 years of intakes. Each year of the intake 2 VPHMTS trainees (public health medicine registrars) each year who will each be employed for a duration of three years. The consortium provides a comprehensive training program for public health medicine registrars to become public health physicians. A range of work placements cover the range of competencies as set out in the [AFPHM Program Requirements Handbook](#). In addition, the location of work placements must comply with the requirements for accreditation and for maintaining their accreditation status with AFPHM.

The Melbourne Consortium will provide leadership and professional development activities for the VPHMTS trainees.

Consortium Summary

In 2025 The Burnet/The Alfred have two vacancies with the consortium for VPHMTS trainees. They will appoint two trainees who will be employed at Burnet for 12 months. Each vacancy may be seconded out to placements at other host institutions for up to six months within 2025.

Trainees are required to fulfil management and organisational responsibilities which are also linked to competency attainment; these may include preparing briefings, chairing meetings, running a community forum or representing a work program at a public/community/stakeholder forum, media interviews (real or mock), or site visits/inspections/audits. There will be training opportunities that the Trainees themselves will help organise, such as running a journal club or a teaching session.

In addition, the VPHMTS structure and competency framework makes graduates highly sought after as experienced and flexible public health professionals with the capacity and skills to manage a broad range of public health areas within the priorities of the Victorian health system.

There are 3 levels of supervisory involvement:

- 1) The Melbourne Consortium Host institution will allot a training supervisor to oversee the training experience
- 2) Each placement will be undertaken under the guidance of local skilled supervisor
- 3) The learning experience will also be scaffolded by the requirements of the AFPHM Advanced Training Program as per the [RACP AFPHM Program Requirements Handbook](#). This includes the requirements for supervisors, the use of learning contracts for each placement and the requirements to assess the development of competency and progression to Fellowship of the Faculty.

VPHMTS Selection Criteria

Essential

- ▶ Registered medical practitioner in Australia
- ▶ Those who have met or will meet the eligibility requirements for the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM) Advanced Training Program as per the [RACP AFPHM Program Requirements Handbook](#) requirements prior to commencement in the training position.
- ▶ Trainees currently enrolled in the AFPHM Advanced Training Program at any stage of their training can also make application to the VPHMTS. Individuals would be expected to intend to complete the VPHMTS (3 years), following admission to the Fellowship

Desirable

- ▶ An ability to demonstrate competence in self-management, effective communication, problem solving, team work and project management.

Special Requirements

- ▶ Trainees are required to fulfil management and organisational responsibilities which are also linked to competency attainment; these may include preparing briefings, chairing meetings, running a community forum or representing a work program at a public/community/stakeholder forum, media interviews (real or mock), or site visits/inspections/audits. There will be training opportunities that the Trainees themselves will help organise, such as running a journal club or a teaching session.

Key Responsibilities

- ▶ The Trainee may be required to assist with some limited teaching activities.
- ▶ Engagement with diverse stakeholders will be central to the role, though the nature of such will depend upon the specific requirements of the role as specified at the time of each placement.
- ▶ Some placements will involve a considerable aspect of research related tasks. It is expected that the trainee would be able to apply existing research skills and take on particular research activities. For example, this may include but not be limited to contributing to literature reviews, supporting laboratory research and qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis.
- ▶ It is envisioned that these trainees will be equipped to be the future leaders of public health in Victoria and beyond. It is anticipated that during the course of the 3 years fellowship the trainee would have an opportunity to develop and practise leadership in public health.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5 and others specific to the external organisations where the Trainee works in external organisations.