A: Applying for the Victorian Anaesthetic Training Scheme

1. Is my job accredited for training?
2. What is the Victorian Anaesthetic Training Scheme?
3. What can I do to improve my chances of getting a position in a Rotational Training Program?
4. I have an anaesthetic registrar job but am not in a Rotational Training Program. Do I have to apply to get on?
5. What is the process for applying for a position in a Rotational Training Program?
6. Do I need to be an Australian citizen or permanent resident?

B: Other training issues

1. I am already in a Rotational Training Program; do I have to reapply each year?
2. I want to take some time off the training program, is this possible?
3. Can I do part-time training?
4. What are my possible rotations?
5. Will I have a parent hospital?
6. Will I get my VOP requirements?
7. What happens with rural rotations?
8. How is my leave managed?

C: Contact details & useful links
A: Applying for the Victorian Anaesthetic Training Scheme

1. Is my job accredited for training?

All anaesthesia registrar positions in hospitals accredited by ANZCA for training are accredited positions and eligible to register training time. This includes all the hospitals participating in the Victorian Anaesthesia Training Scheme.

2. What is the Victorian Anaesthesia Training Scheme?

In 2013 the seven training programs in Victoria consolidated into three; North Western, Eastern and Monash. Together these make up the Victorian Anaesthesia Training Scheme (VATS). Each program, the Victorian Regional Committee and the Victorian Trainee Committee are represented at the Victorian Anaesthesia Training Committee (VATC). VATC is the body managing the centralised application process for the three rotational training programs and is a forum for joint decision-making.

Listed below are the three rotational training programs and the departments that belong to each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Western</th>
<th>Eastern</th>
<th>Monash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albury Wodonga Health</td>
<td>Alfred Health</td>
<td>Dandenong Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Health</td>
<td>Bendigo Health</td>
<td>Frankston Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat Health</td>
<td>Box Hill Hospital</td>
<td>Latrobe Regional Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Health</td>
<td>Geelong Hospital</td>
<td>Monash Medical Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Health</td>
<td>Maroondah Hospital</td>
<td>Northeast Health Wangaratta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Mac</td>
<td>Mercy Health</td>
<td>Western Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Melbourne Hospital</td>
<td>Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Royal Children’s Hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Women’s Hospital</td>
<td>Royal Women’s Hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Health</td>
<td>Shepparton Regional Hospital</td>
<td>St Vincent’s Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some hospitals are listed under two programs to help facilitate trainee access to specialist centres.

Training is divided into the following:
- Introductory Training (IT), first 6 months of training
- Basic Training (BT), 18 month period following IT
- Advanced Training (AT), years 3 and 4 of training
- Provisional Fellowship Training (PFT), year 5 of training

The programs coordinate the first 4 years of training. Applications for PFT are made to individual departments.

Approximate yearly intakes for IT/BT registrars are: Monash Program 12, Eastern Program 17, and North Western Program 18.

VATS FAQ, Version 4, Updated 2 Sept 2019
3. **What can I do to improve my chances of getting a position in a Rotational Training Program (RTP)?**

Selection to a training position in anaesthesia in Victoria is very competitive, with the number of applicants exceeding positions available. You should aim to be the best doctor you can be so you get good references, optimize the quality of your Curriculum Vitae, and ensure that you meet the selection criteria.

ANZCA requires a minimum of 24 months working in prevocational medical education and training. Of these 24 months, there must be a minimum of 12 months working in areas outside of Clinical Anaesthesia, Intensive Care Medicine and Pain Medicine. Most, but not all applicants successfully shortlisted for interview will have done a Critical Care HMO year as well.

Each Rotational Training Program’s selection process is designed to be objective, fair and equitable. Shortlisting is based on a combination of anaesthesia and critical care experience, academic record, and references.

4. **I have an anaesthetic registrar job but am not in a Rotational Training Program. Do I have to apply to get on?**

To enter one of the Rotational Training programs as an IT or BT registrar, you must apply through VATS. For trainees wishing to enter a RTP in AT, it is subject to spaces being available in a training program. A website for expressions of interest for entry into AT RTP is available on the Victorian ANZCA website (http://www.anzca.edu.au/about-anzca/council-committees-and-representatives/Committees/vic-regional-committee/vic-training). Applicants require a CV, referees (at least 2), and a cover letter explaining where they are up to in training, why they wish to join a scheme, and a clear outline of what training requirements are remaining. There is no guarantee that a place will be available for entry into AT.

5. **What is the process for applying for a position in a Rotational Training Program?**

The VATC oversees a single point application process for entry into the Rotational Training Programs. The web address for the central application process is released each year when positions are advertised, (available at http://www.anzca.edu.au/about-anzca/council-committees-and-representatives/Committees/vic-regional-committee/vic-training). Applicants need to fill out relevant details, attach a CV, and nominate referees (3). Each program conducts its own shortlisting and interviews. Applicants shortlisted to be interviewed for more than one program need to complete an online preference form.

6. **Do I need to be an Australian citizen or permanent resident?**

As Rotational Training Program positions are intended to be four years in duration, non-residents/citizens will need to provide evidence that they will be able to at least undertake the Rotational Training program continuously within the prescribed minimum timeframe.
B: Other training issues

1. I am already in a Rotational Training Program. Do I have to reapply each year?

Entry into a rotation provides certainty of progression through the first 4 years, provided ANZCA training requirements and satisfactory clinical, professional and academic progress are met. There may be individual hospital requirements for a simple online application or presentation of CV for HR departments to issue contracts. Individual circumstances may also require an interview prior to progressing to the next contract. Fellowship positions are arranged through application to individual departments.

2. I want to take some time off the training program. Is this possible?

Maternity, compassionate and sick leave are as per the current relevant Victorian enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA). Prolonged periods of leave for extra-curricular activities are discussed on a case-by-case basis, however there may be a limited guarantee of immediate re-entry into the training program due to the availability of positions.

3. Can I do part-time training?

Full time training is strongly encouraged. A limited period of part-time training may be negotiated with the individual training programs. Arrangements will need to fulfil ANZCA training requirement guidelines and satisfy the workforce requirements of the hospitals. Volume of practice requirements may be more difficult to fulfil in part time training, which may potentially extend the training period.

4. What are my possible rotations?

Each Rotational Training Program has released a 4-year draft of rotations. These are available on the VATS Facebook page (link at end of this document). It is emphasised that these are drafts only and subject to change, but do give an indication of possible rotations which may be useful to candidates in ranking Rotational Training Programs if offered more than one program.

5. Will I get my VOP requirements?

The intention of the new rotational training program structure is to provide greater certainty for trainees than has occurred in the past so the VATC expect the answer to be “yes”, however as the VATC cannot control what occurs during a given clinical placement, an absolute guarantee is not possible.

6. What happens with rural rotations?

The usual arrangement for rural rotation hospital supplied/subsidised accommodation remains.

7. How is my leave managed?

Weeks of leave per rotation are allocated by the rotational supervisors before the start of the year. Requests for specific leave dates including courses and exams, must be made directly to the departments where the leave will be taken. The rotational supervisors will provide the points of contact for each department.
C: Contact details & useful links

**Victorian Anaesthesia Training Committee**
Coordinator: Dr Nam Le
Email: vicanaesthesiatrainingcommittee@gmail.com

**North Western Training Program Committee**
Rotational Supervisors Dr Andrew MacCormick & Dr Alex Henry
Email: training@nwts.com.au

**Eastern Training Program Committee**
Rotational Supervisors: Dr Roman Kluger & Dr Alan Kakos
Email: a.kakos@alfred.org.au

**Monash Anaesthesia Training Program**
Rotational Supervisor: Dr Craig Noonan
Email: dr.craignoonan@gmail.com

**Useful Links**
https://www.facebook.com/vicanaesthesiatrainingcommittee