

**Australian Hand Surgery Society (AHSS)  
Hand Surgery Post-Fellowship Education and Training (PFET) Programme**

The AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Programme was approved in 2012 by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) PFET Committee with the agreement of the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) and the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), these bodies being the senior specialities supporting the development of the Hand Surgery programme.

The contract between the AHSS and the RACS which included the Memorandum of Understanding of the conduct of the AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Programme was completed in September 2013.

**Committees and Sub-Committees**

*AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Committee*

David McCombe (Chair), AHSS President, Board members of AHSS, AOA representative and ASPS representative.

This committee has responsibility for oversight of the programme and providing annual reports to the RACS – these are to be forwarded to the College PFET Committee by May 10<sup>th</sup> of each year, describing the detail of the previous training year. A formal College review of the position is to be undertaken 3 years after the date of signing of the contract (September 2016).

Karen Smith was invited to act as the New Zealand Hand Surgery Society (NZ HSS) ex-officio member of the AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Committee.

a) *Finance Sub-Committee*: AHSS Treasurer, Board member

b) *Training Centre Accreditation (TCA) Sub-Committee*:

This sub-committee is responsible for the processes of assessment, accreditation and continuing assessment of training centres. The tasks of this sub-committee may be delegated to AHSS members as appropriate.

c) *Trainee Selection and Assessment (TSA) Sub-Committee*:

This sub-committee is responsible for the assessment of applications and approval of proposed programmes as fulfilling the criteria for successful undertaking and completion of the hand surgery programme. Applications are to be received by the AHSS Secretariat and forwarded to the Chair of the AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Committee and the Chair of the TSA Sub-Committee. The TSA Sub-Committee will then assess the suitability of the applicant for appointment to the programme. This sub-committee is responsible for determining that the trainee has successfully completed the programme.

## **Structure of the programme**

A full description of the approved programme is contained in the document of proposal submitted to and agreed by the RACS (<http://ahssociety.org.au/pfet.htm>). This includes five sections:

1. Objective of Hand Surgery PFET programme
2. Curriculum
3. Training programme duration and structure
4. Administration of programme
5. Fee structure

In summary, a minimum of 18 months of Post-Fellowship training is demanded, of which 12 months should be in Australia/New Zealand. Two years of training is preferred but allowances may be given for experience obtained in the parent orthopaedic or plastic surgery SET programme. Overseas training in positions approved by the AHSS Hand Surgery PFET Committee at the recommendation of the TCA Subcommittee may contribute to 6 or 12 months of the duration of the Hand Surgery PFET training programme.