

INTRODUCING A NEW MEMBER OF GWV, DR KAREN PRICE

Dr Karen Price has recently joined Graduate Women Victoria. Karen works as a doctor, a general practitioner, and much more; her email signature lists her interests as follows:

*Dr Karen Price
MBBS, FRACGP
Co-Chair Women In GP
Vic Faculty, RACGP
Co Administrator on GPs Down Under
Facebook Networking Group for GPs
General Practitioner and PhD Candidate
Monash University
School of Primary Health Care*

I was intrigued by this, and asked Karen to enlarge upon these many projects. This is her response. Marian Quartly

Karen writes: My activities include:-

Mentor program development at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for women GPs from registrar status to mature clinicians who are seeking a diverse work environment e.g. Teaching, Advocacy, Leadership, Business, 3rd World Aid etc. This recognises that a woman's working life trajectory is at times messy and conflicted and that reengagement within the workforce in diverse and flexible ways needs support.

Networking in the online communities; Twitter, Google + groups and Facebook professional groups. This is where a lot of innovative peer reviewed medical education is emerging and occurring, and I co-administer a Facebook Australian GPs only group. This follows the principles of adult learning and the fabulous world of Heutagogy*. It may also mean the nature of learning is changing and evolving, certainly continuous medical education is an expensive proposition for the less than full time General Practitioners, many of whom are women. It's a very interesting new space for community.

On-line communities of practice and learning are a great way to reduce the isolation of General Practice, where often practitioners are too busy with the workload to connect meaningfully in a professional sense with their peers. I am delivering a Plenary on this Brave New World, at the Tropical Medicine Conference in July 2015. My co-chairship of the Women in General Practice committee, Victorian Faculty of the RACGP where I have previously been Chair for the last 2 years. The co-chairship is a way to rotate the leadership position and give younger members a "turn" at Board level experience and an ability to lead a vision and run a meeting. It also means they may only need to do this once every two years so for younger women with many other conflicts on their time, it gives them some experience and builds the pipeline of experience in leadership. We also run an annual GP women's conference attracting women GPs from all over Australia.

My PhD: My supervisors are Associate Professors Lyn Clearihan and Jan Coles. I am looking at the role of peer connection in sustaining empathic general practitioners in the Australian workforce. Surreptitiously I wonder if there is a heavier impact of "care work" for women doctors and how they might recharge from that expectation and the vicarious trauma that can exist within general practice consultations. My

work is professional relationship-based support which is something often ignored within the professional literature. I began in a part time capacity at the end of April 2013 so I am relatively new to it all. I graduated medicine in 1986 Monash, have 3 kids with the youngest just finishing high school and I have no intention of being a good housewife despite my excellent training .

Thank you very much for the interest in my little world and thankyou for the indulgence of listing my interests. I really appreciate the diversity of views and expertise that other disciplines bring, which helps me ever evolve my frameworks.

Dr Karen Price
MBBS, FRACGP
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Linked In

* **Heutagogy** is defined in Wikipedia thus: In education, heutagogy, is a term coined by Stewart Hase and Chris Kenyon of Southern Cross University in Australia, and is also called self-determined learning. The basic tenet of the approach is that it is the learner who should be at the centre of their own learning, and hence that 'learning' should not be seen as teacher-centric or curriculum-centric, but learner-centric.