



Our vision

To be a great children's hospital

Our values

Unity, passion, integrity, respect, excellence

Our goals

Excellence in healthcare
Leadership in research and education
Focus on quality and safety
Partners in paediatric care
Improved organisational environment

Position Description

Title:	Fellow in Forensic Paediatric Medicine
Department	Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service (VFPMS)
Hours and Classification	Advanced trainee
Agreement	AMA HMO Agreement Certified Agreement 2002, Heads of Agreement 2006
Responsible to	Director, VFPMS, Royal Children's Hospital
Accountable to	Director, VFPMS Chief of Medicine, RCH Director Women's and Children's Program, MMC

The Organization

The Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service (VFPMS) was established to provide a coordinated statewide forensic paediatric medical service to abused and neglected children, young people and their care-givers. The service provides 24 hour medical services for evaluation of children's injuries and the evaluation of suspected child sexual abuse. Consultations are also provided to health professionals, police and child protection workers in relation to children for whom child abuse is suspected. The service is accessible and responsive to the needs of clients and other service users, with the aim of improving early identification, response and referral for services of children suspected of having experienced abuse or neglect.

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) is fund holder for the VFPMS and is the employer of the Medical Director. However the VFPMS metro services are provided at both RCH and the Monash Medical Centre – Clayton (MMC) using the resources of both medical services and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Health (VIFM). In addition a network of qualified regional health professionals provide VFPMS services in regional Victoria.

Governance processes are provided by the [VFPMS Governing Group](#)

The VFPMS Governing Group sets the strategic direction, agrees service delivery principles, and ensures quality of care. Representation on the governing group includes at least two members from each of RCH, MMC and VIFM in addition to representatives from Victoria Police, DHS Office for Children and DHS Programs Branch.

Purpose

The Fellow in Forensic Paediatric Medicine is an advanced trainee in paediatric medicine, registered and supervised in accordance with training requirements and curricula of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (or equivalent).

The VFPMS Fellows are supervised for their day to day clinical practice by Sessional Specialist Paediatricians at Monash Medical Centre and the Royal Children's Hospital. Supervision of training and regular supervision of clinical work is provided by the Medical Director in accordance with RACP curricula and as agreed with the Specialist Advisory Committees of the RACP.

As part of the multidisciplinary VFPMS team, the VFPMS Fellow provides direct clinical services for children when abuse, assault and neglect have been suspected. The Fellow in FPM also collaborates with health and counselling services to ensure that children, young people and their families access the broad range of health, mental health and support services available to them.

The VFPMS Fellow is expected to conduct a project or quality assurance activity during their rotation.

Full details of the training program are provided in the VFPMS Fellow's Training Manual.

Attributes

The successful applicant will be able to:

- Develop working partnerships with referrers, other health service professional, and community agencies
- Contribute constructively and effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- Balance sometimes competing and conflicting priorities
- Avail themselves of opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in forensic paediatrics
- Respond in a timely manner
- Be open, approachable and accessible
- Demonstrate excellent communication skills
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement
- Demonstrate a "can do" and flexible approach
- Demonstrate good time management and prioritising
- Demonstrate resistance to stress
- Demonstrate well developed interpersonal skills and the ability to engage groups of people with differing perspectives

Organisational relationship

Royal Children's Hospital

RCH is the fund-holder for VFPMS and is responsible for providing a single co-ordinated state-wide service. The Medical Director will report to the Chief of Medicine, RCH.

VFPMS Governing Group

The VFPMS Governing Group will set the strategic direction, agree service delivery principles, and ensure quality of care. Representation on the governing group will include at least two members from each of RCH, MMC and VIFM in addition to representatives from Victoria Police, DHS Office for Children and DHS Programs Branch.

Referrers

Victoria Police and the Office for Children (Department of Human Services) are the main referrers to the service. The service delivered by the Medical Director must meet the needs of these referrers, in particular, provide complete and timely expert opinions, assessments, medical reports and attendance at court when required.

Developed by:	Dr. Anne Smith, Medical Director VFPMS
Developed:	January 2007
Reviewed:	May 2008
Next Review:	May 2009
