

Position Description

Position title	2027 VFPMS Fellow
Department / Division	Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service (VFPMS)
Classification	HM27 Registrar Year 03 – HM30 Registrar Year 06+
Position reports to	Medical Director, VFPMS
No. of direct & indirect reports	N/A
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville & Monash Children's Hospital, Clayton
Risk category	Category A - works in a direct patient contact role and has or potential to have exposure to blood or body fluids.

The Royal Children's Hospital

The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is *A world where all kids thrive.*

RCH is located within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, with more than 45 world-class biomedical organisations and more than 50,000 of the brightest minds working together to make the Precinct number one in the Asia Pacific region for health, education, research, and training. Within this, RCH is also a cornerstone member of the Melbourne Children's Campus, partnering with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Each organisation contributes to a paediatric academic health centre which is greater than the sum of its parts.

RCH has cared for the children and young people of Victoria for more than 150 years since it was founded in 1870. A full range of paediatric and adolescent health services are provided plus tertiary and quaternary care for the most critically ill and medically complex patients in Victoria. Tasmania, southern NSW and other states around Australia and overseas. The RCH is the only provider of heart transplant services and CAR T-cell therapy for paediatrics in Australia. RCH is an effective advocate for patients and their families with a particular focus on vulnerable children and increasingly, mental health in young people. The hospital also supports many health promotion and prevention programs. The Hospital has more than 6,000 staff, a budget of \$850M, 12 wards and 350 beds. Annually, the RCH has 300,000+ Specialist Clinic appointments, 90,000+ Emergency Department presentations and 20,000 elective surgeries.

We work collaboratively with hospitals to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time. The RCH is committed to the Child Safe Standards <https://www.rch.org.au/quality/child-safety/>.

RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact.

Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au

ROLE 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 in their day-to-day clinical practice by Sessional Specialist Paediatricians at the MCH and the RCH. Supervision of advanced training and regular supervision of clinical work is provided by RACP accredited supervisors in accordance with RACP curricula and as agreed with the Specialist Training 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. Consultations are provided at the RCH and the MCH. Fellows work at both sites for sessions during the day and cover both sites after hours when on call.

Training in forensic paediatric medicine will be provided, including training in the evaluation of child sexual abuse, writing medico-legal reports and presenting evidence to other professionals and the courts. Full details of the training program are provided in the VFPMS Fellow's Training Manual.

The two training positions are suitable for trainees approaching the end of their advanced training.

Demonstrated competency in the clinical evaluation of children's medical conditions and developmental abilities is desirable. Training will be provided in skills related to clinical forensic medicine.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Provide forensic medical examinations and reports for children and young people when abuse, assault and/or neglect have been suspected
- Provide consultation and advice to patients and stakeholders of VFPMS (e.g. health professionals, police, Child Protection)
- Attend court as required
- Participate in the VFPMS on call roster (on call commitments are approximately 1 week in 4, split rostering, with Consultant supervision and support)
- Collaborate 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
- Develop working partnerships with referrers, other health service professionals, and community agencies
- Undertake a project or quality assurance activity during the rotation period
- Participate in peer review meetings
- Contribute constructively and effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- Balance sometimes competing and conflicting priorities
- Participate in opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in forensic paediatric medicine
- Respond in a timely manner
- It is the responsibility of the individual to organise their own transport to and from their rostered sites (and between sites where applicable)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

To be successful in this role the applicant will have:

- MBBS or equivalent
- AHPRA registration (eligible for registration in Victoria)
- Completed FRACP exams and undertaken some advanced training in paediatric medicine

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

VFPMS Fellow positions will be offered for a period between February 2026 and February 2027 part time (0.5 EFT) each. This position provides a great training opportunity for experienced advanced trainees in paediatric medicine (junior medical staff) who are considering a career in paediatric forensic medicine, general paediatric practice, especially in regional areas, and Community Child Health. A full-time position may be considered for an exceptional applicant who is currently planning a career in paediatric forensic medicine.

Key attributes

- Open, approachable and accessible
- Excellent communication (verbal and written) skills
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement
- Demonstrate a “can do” and flexible approach
- Good time management and prioritising skills
- Ability to balance competing demands and conflicting priorities
- Demonstrate well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to engage groups of people with differing perspectives

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Employees are required to undertake a National Criminal Record Check and a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment
- Employees are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check throughout their employment
- A current, full driver's licence for the State of Victoria which is appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven, and comply with any restrictions on their licence (e.g. wearing glasses) while undertaking hospital duties (If applicable)
- Employees are required to maintain compliance with RCHs "Staff Immunisation - Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" procedure.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All employees are required to adhere to the Royal Children's Hospital Values:

- Curious - We are creative, playful and collaborative
- Courageous - We pursue our goals with determination, ambition and confidence
- Inclusive - We embrace diversity, communicate well, build connections and celebrate our successes together
- Kind - We are generous, warm and understanding

RCH COMPACT

All new and existing employees commit to the RCH Compact to contribute to a strong and respectful culture.

- We do better work caring for children and families when we also care for each other
- I bring a positive attitude to work – I share, I laugh, I enjoy other's company
- I take responsibility for my behaviour and its impact on others
- I am curious and seek out ways to constantly learn and improve
- I celebrate the good stuff, the small stuff, the big stuff – it all matters
- I speak up when things aren't right
- I value the many different roles it takes to deliver great patient care
- I actively listen because I want to understand others and make better decisions
- I am inclusive and value diversity
- When it comes to teamwork, I don't hold back – I'm all in

QUALITY, SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT

RCH employees have a responsibility and accountability to contribute to the organisation's commitment to Quality, Safety and Improvement by:

- Acting in accordance and complying with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures
- Identifying risks, reporting and being actively involved in risk mitigation strategies
- Participating in and actively contributing to quality improvement programs
- Complying with the requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards
- Complying with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards
- Complying with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position

The RCH is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, all members of the LGBTQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

June 2026