A Proposal for a College Advanced Training Stream in Mental Health Leadership

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Background
The College now has Advanced Certificate training programs in: Adult Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychiatry of Old Age, Forensic Psychiatry, Psychotherapies, Consultation Liaison Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry. All are very much focused, as they should be, on various aspects of clinical practice, and prepare psychiatrists to work as highly qualified specialists in various components of the mental health system. There is a need, however, for an advanced training program that will prepare those psychiatrists with an interest for working on improving the mental health systems of Australia and New Zealand in leadership and management roles.

Discussion
The opportunities for, and obligations of, leadership are many. They include work in mental health policy analysis and development; innovative service design, implementation and evaluation; leadership of clinical institutions and teams; the formation of new constellations of partnership and collaboration; leadership of research teams working in new areas of mental health systems research; and many other areas. This paper will present an outline curriculum for an Advanced Certificate in Mental Health Leadership. The outline will set out the academic components of such a program, identify the types of positions that may qualify as accredited advanced training posts, and comment on issues of assessment and supervision.

Competing interests
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