

ELECTIVE (SSC5a) REPORT (1200 words)

A report that addresses the above four objectives should be written below. Your Elective supervisor will assess this.

Describe the pattern of COVID in the local area and compare it to the global trend in COVID epidemiology

COVID in NSW appears to be in waves as like the global trend. While the waves do not match up with UK or other country it appears to be a similar pattern to elsewhere. NSW is coming into winter and so I would predict a spike in cases. Furthermore, the death rate does not appear to be especially high which would make me think that the disease is not as virulent as the first strain which is line with the global trend.

Compare and contrast primary care in Australia with the UK system.

The patient population and medicine aspect of the job seems very comparable to the U.K. The main differences seem to be in the patient billing. GPs are not paid per session but per patient per intervention and per length of consultations. This seems a far better way of billing both the patients and paying the GP practices and GPs as patients insurances are billed to the specific patient needs. Furthermore, it enables greater flexibility in the working life of the GPs as they can schedule as many or as few patients as they would like and they are fairly recompensated for it.

Research from the healthcare professionals their opinion on the AUS response to COVID

From speaking with healthcare professionals, the prevailing opinion is that the initial lockdown was good as it was fast and timely and in line with the WHO recommendations. The response after this was less than ideal. In particular the change in premiership halfway through the pandemic resulted in a non uniform response. The government portrayal was following that of the UK. Although later the government admitted that RAT testing in schools was done purely to appease the media frenzy stired up. From a GPs perspective the PPE distribution was awful leading to them sourcing their own PPE from their own pocket and the information distribution to GPs wasn't great. Often patients seemed to know information before the GPs and this resulted in tension. Vaccine rollout was disappointing because GPS expected they would get a large supply but got few vials. Now there are too many vials of vaccine leading to wastage. Being involved in the vaccination rollout actually resulted in a loss of earnings for GPs.

To gain greater ability and confidence in performing a full history and examination of patients in a primary care setting.

I took multiple histories, performed multiple examinations and practiced on patients over the course of my elective. These included taking blood pressure, cardiovascular examinations, immunisations and baby checks. My clinical skill has improved immensley over the course of this 3 week elective.