

Questionmark Case Study

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine delivers courses and assessments to doctors in remote rural areas

Rural doctors access ongoing education and assessment without leaving their communities.

Background

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) sets and maintains standards for safe General Practice/ Family Medicine in Australia, focusing on the special needs of those living in rural and remote communities. ACRRM provides one of the 2 nationally accredited pathways to Fellowship (Board Registration in General Practice / Family Medicine in Australia, a process that includes successful completion of high stakes summative assessments.

ACRRM plays a key role in setting the standards for rural and remote medicine in Australia. Against this background, ACRRM has extensively used online delivery tools to support those living and working outside the metropolitan zone.

Virtual Classes

To encourage doctors to practice long-term in rural areas ACRRM provides ongoing education and assessment opportunities they can access without having to leave their communities. ACRRM members participate in virtual classes that include training for mental health, counseling, diagnosis, and online clinical scenarios using online virtual classrooms. Learning online with ACRRM, doctors do not have to take off a day's work: they can have dinner with their families, put their children to bed and then attend class."

Local Assessment Delivery

A key consideration in the development of ACRRM's summative assessment process was to deliver the assessments within each candidate's local community. This means candidates needn't take days off work and travel extended distances to attend exams, nor find locums to cover their absence. Each exam center usually holds only one candidate: an exam with 50 candidates can be held simultaneously across 40+ sites, each with 2 invigilators/proctors. Since 2007, ACRRM has used Questionmark Perception to develop and deliver three-hour, 125-question multiple choice question exams.

Questionmark Live

Attending a three-day Questionmark workshop in New Zealand helped ACRRM's Online Services Manager, Lex Lucas, connect with other Perception users and gather ideas for future projects using new software features and tools.

"We first felt like we were doing things in a vacuum — by ourselves — and then realized that there's a whole community of users out there to learn from and bounce ideas off," recalls Lucas.

During the workshop Lucas became familiar with Questionmark Live, a browser-based authoring tool that enables subject-matter experts to create question sets easily and submit them for inclusion in Perception assessments. He says Questionmark Live will help ACRRM move to a more integrated system across the exam writing, editing, delivery and marking process.

"Rural doctors, academics, and editors will all be able to log into Questionmark Live, review changes, refine and manage question writing without the expense or inconvenience that face-to-face meetings would require," Lucas explains.

"Questionmark Live will help us improve the quality of our questions by tracking versions and revisions, thereby strengthening the integrity of our assessment process."

More information

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