



**Peter Mac**

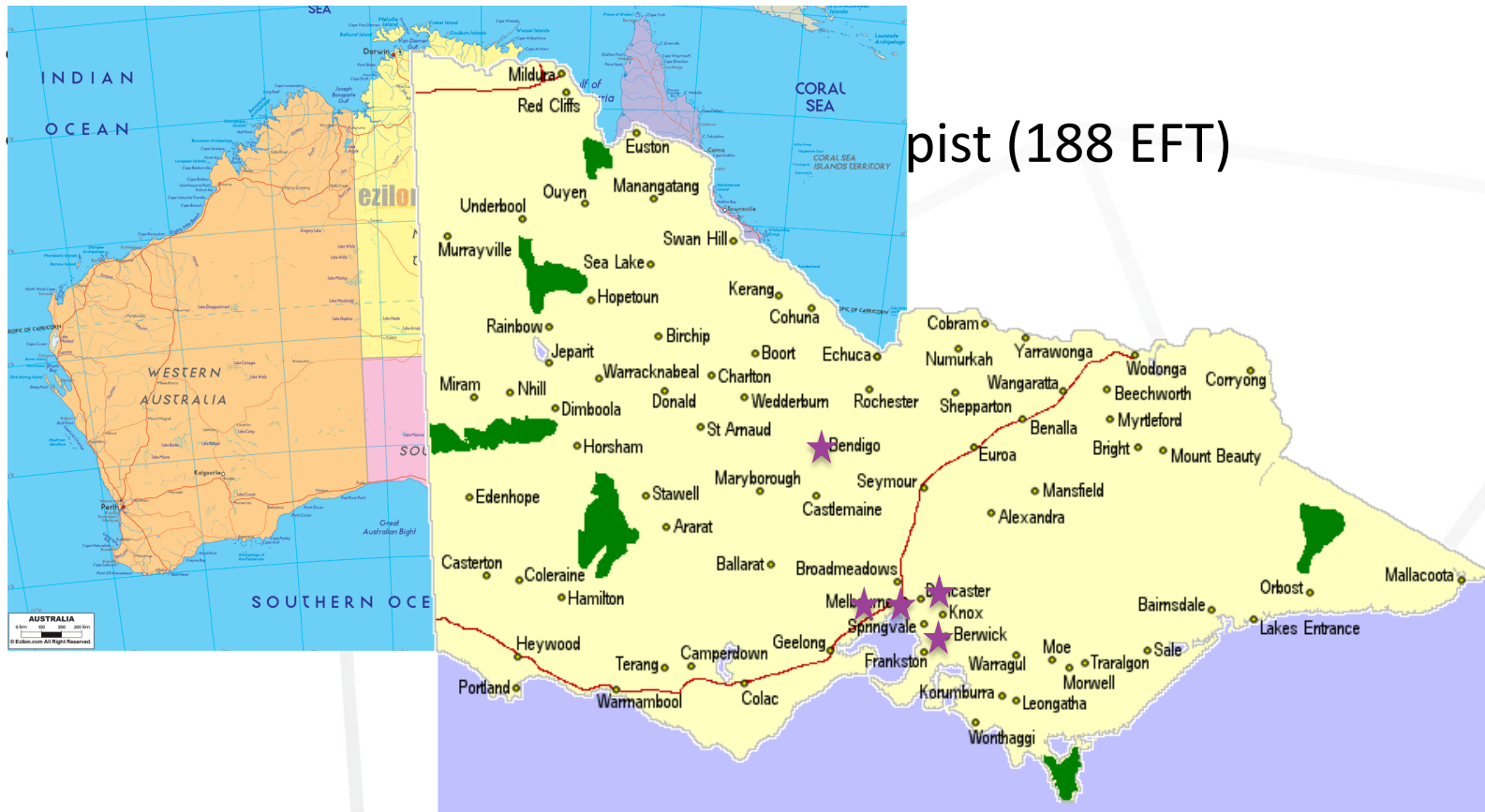
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
Victoria Australia

# Advanced Practice at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre: An Evolving Concept

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# Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC)

- 16 linear accelerators
- 5 Campuses: 4 metropolitan, 1 regional



# Advanced Practice at PMCC

- Pilot program 'Breast Localisation' in 2006
- Pilot program 'Advanced Imaging' in 2009
- Clinical mentorship with RO, underpinned by distance education academic material
- Intent:
  - Improve quality of service provision; cost effectiveness; efficiency of patient pathway; patient care; expert resource
  - Opportunity to develop expertise in clinical innovation; protocol development; service leadership; research



# Implementation Strategy

- Needs Assessment
  - Process mapping
  - Staff surveys and focus groups
  - Scope new opportunities with technology
- Training Provision
  - Clinical expert involvement
  - Academic content developed<sup>1</sup>
- Define Outcomes
  - Scope of practice; maintenance of competency; quality measures
- Stakeholder Engagement
  - Locally and externally

# Training Outcomes

- Breast: 17 graduates (2016: 6 practising)
  - Independently delineate breast tissue, SCF, e' boost on CT; Linac problem solving; Technique/Trial development, implementation, support, analysis; Clinical expertise
- Imaging: 24 graduates (2016: 14 practising)
  - IGRT/Adaptive technique development, implementation, support, analysis; pre-planning/post treatment organ delineation; Clinical expertise (Pelvis; Thorax; H&N)
- Challenge: Is advanced practice being realised?



# Evaluation (2011)

- Aims
  - What is the impact (utilisation, outcomes, satisfaction) of the specialist roles at each site?
  - How can the future capacity of the specialist roles across the organisation be made most effective?
- Methods
  - Activity records including task, duration and impact
  - Semi-structured interviews with primary stakeholders to explore evaluation aims, action research approach
- Outcomes
  - Utilised for discrete activities; satisfied with knowledge
  - Challenged with advancing scope and recognition; time and access; variations in expectations
  - Report<sup>2</sup> and recommendations tabled: impacted by service review





# Recent Influences

- University advanced practice curriculum<sup>3</sup>
  - Short course training programs no longer offered
- Professional body framework<sup>4</sup>
  - Formal pathway for recognition
- Radiation Therapy Services restructure
  - Management level restructure
  - Coordinator portfolios, including clinical innovation
  - Five imaging APs hold clinical leadership roles: scope blurred; impacts on non-AP clinical leads unclear



# An Evolution

- Where did we start?
  - Implemented AP roles responding to service need: need has been met
  - Roles introduced as adjunct to usual clinical role
  - Positive outcomes in discrete activities; enhancing patient pathway; protocol development
- Where are we now?
  - Challenged by ability to achieve advanced practice outcomes: title change to 'clinical specialists'
  - High attrition over time: ability to provide training inhibited
  - Still adding value in the activities being performed





# An Evolution

- Where do we go from here?
  - Recent clinical specialist workshop initiated several research activities
  - Current review of competencies across service may highlight additional opportunities to engage in staff training
  - Alternate training mechanisms to be developed: activity based outcomes
  - Broad acceptance of the clinical specialist concept, adding value to the service



# References

1. Matthews K, Wright C, Osborne C. Blending work-integrated learning with distance education in an Australian radiation therapy advanced practice curriculum. *Radiography*. 2014;20(3):277-282.
2. Matthews K. *Evaluation of Specialist Practitioner Radiation Therapist Roles at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre*. Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre: Produced for the Department of Health, Victoria; 2012. (unpublished report)
3. Matthews, K, Cunningham, J. Evidence-based curriculum design to support the training of advanced practitioners in radiation therapy. *Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology*. 2014; 58(S1): 121
4. Australian Institute of Radiography. *Pathway to Advanced Practice*. 2014.

