An apple a day keeps the doctor away:
a health and wellbeing guide for
Junior Medical Officers

Health Services Tasmania

Developed by
The Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania
(Updated January 2016)
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are doctors healthier?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self Care</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does self care involve?</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could this be me?</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for yourself</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue and Re-balance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work Well</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key people – Royal Hobart Hospital</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key people – Launceston General Hospital</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key people – North West Regional Hospital/Mersey Community Hospital</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying and prejudice</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Move Well</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eat Well</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stay Well</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathing and simple stretches</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindfulness</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Wellbeing at the Launceston General Hospital</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Wellbeing at the Royal Hobart Hospital</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support for Junior Medical Officers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical support</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional support</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal support</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources and Contacts</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Reading</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away”.

The simple meaning behind this old saying is to encourage healthy eating but this saying can be expanded to encourage overall health and wellbeing.

Welcome to this guide.

The purpose of this health and wellbeing guide is to provide Junior Medical Officers (JMOs) with information, strategies and resources for self care as an essential part of their professional life. The guide aims to give information, strategies, and suggestions to improve JMOs’ health and wellbeing and stay well, with an emphasis on relevant and local information and services.

This guide has been developed by The Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania (PMCT) and is based on information derived from research, an extensive literature review into emotional and physical health of medical practitioners and other relevant Australian resources.

We hope you find this guide useful and relevant to you. We welcome any comments or suggestions to improve the guide, as your input will make it a more relevant document for you.

Stay well.

What is Health?

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (World Health Organization, 1948)

What does ’Wellbeing’ mean?

Wellbeing is a complex combination of a person’s physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. It is linked to happiness and life satisfaction. It’s how you feel about yourself and your life.

Wellbeing is like a see-saw – stable wellbeing happens when the individual has the psychological, social and physical resources they need to meet a particular psychological, social and/or physical challenge. When individuals have more challenges than resources, the see-saw dips, along with their wellbeing, and vice-versa.

Are doctors healthier?

Doctors are expected to be healthy, and in general, doctors tend to be physically healthier than the average person in the community (1).

Yet doctors (particularly young doctors) report substantially higher rates of psychological distress (including burnout and emotional exhaustion) compared to both the Australian population and other Australian professionals (2).

These emotional difficulties can have a severe impact on their quality of life and their family’s quality of life and can affect patient care (3).

The general work experience for Australian doctors is stressful and demanding, and many young doctors report greater work stress than their older colleagues (2). Emotional health problems among doctors reflect many factors that can trigger stress, including the personalities of those who become doctors, the nature of medical training, and the organisational stresses of medical practice. While these things can’t all be changed, being aware of these factors may help a person change the way these pressures affect him or her (3).

JMOs may be at greater risk of poor health as they face additional pressures such as clinical placement demands and aiming to succeed in career progression (4). Doctors find it difficult to seek treatment and support for mental health conditions due to fear of lack of confidentiality or privacy, embarrassment and the fear of any impact on registration and right to practice (2). Doctors also tend to give their own health care a low priority and feel pressured not to miss shifts due to ill-health (5). The consequences of this is that some doctors may not access treatment early or not until their condition can no longer be concealed or affects patient care (6).

So it is very important that doctors present early with their health concerns and are provided with easy access to appropriate management and services. Information and support may help doctors to be better equipped to deal with the emotional stresses of their work. A way this can be achieved is by providing doctors with an easily accessible source of relevant information so they can seek assistance.

References

Self Care

The notion of self care is not always one that doctors apply to themselves. Doctors often put their duty of care to their patients first and work unrealistic workloads.

What does self care involve?

“Self care is about ensuring you look after yourself. Self care involves taking care of our physical health, our mental, emotional and spiritual health. It includes eating, sleeping and living well. It means setting priorities and achievable goals and enjoying work and leisure – making time for both. Self care ensures our own and our family’s needs are not neglected. It means making sure we have professional and independent medical advice about our own physical and emotional health. Self care is what we advise our patients to do when they consult us, worn down and stressed out about work and life. Sometimes we need to take our own advice.”

Clode D and Boldero J. 2006.

Could this be me?

When you’re focused on a career in helping others with their health, it can be hard to admit when you need help yourself. It’s important to recognise the signs that you or a colleague might be experiencing stress or mental health problems. If left untreated, stress and acute distress can lead to depression and anxiety disorders, impacting on your mental and physical health - and on your work.

The good news is that there are many types of effective, easily accessible supports and treatments available. Help is out there, so nobody should be afraid to ask for it.

Caring for yourself

Remember you are person first and doctor second. Take care of your health, family and friends; and enjoy them.

- Take a few minutes to stop, focus on your breathing, do some breathing exercises (see page 11).
- Eat regularly and choose healthy options (see page 10).
- When it is difficult to take a break, keep some food at hand to re-energise yourself: good options are nuts, dried fruit, bananas, plain rice crackers, muesli.
- When necessary, take sick leave: if you can’t work at your best, it will affect you and your patients.
- Plan your holidays early, it gives you something to look forward to.
- Join a gym or a group that suits your interest, such as a walking group.
- Source your own GP to obtain care and medical treatment, including prescriptions and referrals (see page 15).
**Fatigue**

Fatigue is a feeling of weariness, tiredness or lack of energy that does not go away when you rest. People can feel fatigued in body or mind.

With physical fatigue your muscles cannot do things as easily as they used to, like finding it difficult to climb stairs. With psychological fatigue, it may be difficult to concentrate or you might not feel like getting out of bed in the morning.

Fatigue can be a response to physical exertion, poor eating habits, emotional stress or lack of sleep. But in some cases fatigue can be a symptom of an underlying medical problem that needs medical treatment.

Fatigue can cause a range of physical, mental and emotional symptoms including: sleepiness; headache; dizziness; sore muscles; moodiness; appetite loss; blurry vision; reduced immune system function; poor concentration; low motivation; and slowed responses.

When fatigue is not relieved by enough sleep, good nutrition or a low stress environment, it should be evaluated by your doctor.

From: Better Health Channel

---

**Re-balance**

To have a clear mind, finding the right balance between routine and stimulation is the key. Being ‘well balanced’ brings happiness, health and inspiration.

Do you need to re-balance your mind?
If your mind is over stimulated find something grounding each day – find somewhere, someone or something that calms your mind – music, a room at home, the garden, a favourite lunch spot.

If your mind is under stimulated, seek some variety each day – do something new each day, such as taking a different route to work, do an activity that wouldn’t normally interest you, research a topic that is new to you.

From: mind gardener
Work Well

Key people who can help you settle into your hospital workplace, provide information about recruitment, leave and payroll issues and provide support are listed below.

The PMCT E-Learning for JMOs site on Tasmania Health Education Online (THEO) provides more information about the JMO Workplace in Tasmania. Click here – log on with your DHHS email details. Click on the PMCT icon, select “JMO Workplace”.

Royal Hobart Hospital Staff (Tasmanian Health Organisation - South)

For information concerning recruitment, leave and payroll contact StaffLink:
Senior Medical Recruitment Officer – Alison Hallam
Phone: 03 6222 7177 Fax: 03 6222 7340
Email: alison.hallam@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Recruitment Support Officer – Melissa Irvine
Phone: 03 6222 7178 Fax: 03 6222 7340
Email: melissa.irvine@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Recruitment Support Officer – Marita Eccles
Phone: 03 6222 7818 Fax: 03 6222 7340
Email: marita.eccles@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Email for StaffLink: stafflink@dhhs.tas.gov.au

For information concerning rostering contact:
Roster Support Unit
Phone: 03 6222 6797/6798
Email for Rostering: rhh.juniordoctorstaffing@dhhs.tas.gov.au

For information concerning education, training, assessment and support services contact:
Dr Lynn Hemmings, Medical Education Advisor
Phone: 03 6222 7958
Email: lynn.hemmings@ths.tas.gov.au

Dr Allan Beswick, Director of Clinical Training (DCT - Interns)
Phone: 03 6222 8202
Email: allan.beswick@ths.tas.gov.au
Work Well

Launceston General Hospital (Tasmanian Health Organisation - North)

For information concerning recruitment, leave and rostering contact:
Debbie West, Resident Staff Co-ordinator
Phone: 03 6348 7008  Fax: 03 63487825
Email: debbie.west@dhhs.tas.gov.au

For information concerning education, training, assessment and support services contact:
Robin Ikin, Medical Education Advisor
Phone: 03 6348 7428
Email: robin.ikin@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Dr Beth Mulligan, Director of Clinical Training (DCT)
Phone: 03 6348 7343
Email: beth.mulligan@dhhs.tas.gov.au

North West Regional Hospital and Mersey Community Hospital
(Tasmanian Health Organisation – North West)

For information concerning recruitment:
Donna Harris, Medical Recruitment Manager
Phone: 64908954
donna.harris@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Allison Smith, Medical Recruitment Officer
Phone: 03 6426 5686  Fax: 03  6490 8990
Email: allison.smith@dhhs.tas.gov.au

For information concerning education, training, assessment and support services contact:
NWRH and MCH:
Dr Corinne Ginifer, Director of Clinical Training (DCT)
Phone: 03 6430 5933
Email: corinne.ginifer@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Luanne Steven, Medical Clinical Educator
Phone: 03 64304550
Email: Luanne.Steven@utas.edu.au

Dianne Curran, Multicultural Liaison Officer
Phone: 03 64265675 (Mon-Tue)
Email: dianne.curran@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Work Well

The workplace is an important area in which to build a comfortable and supportive environment.

When you start in a position, it is important to clarify your employer’s and supervisor’s expectations of you as well as your expectations of them. You will need to familiarise yourself with procedures and policies directly and in-directly related to your work. Getting these issues clarified, understood and agreed upon early will ensure a good start to your working relationships.

In some cases, the work situation may not be comfortable and supportive. An example of this is bullying or prejudice from seniors.

A scenario
Registrar or Consultant
'Doing overtime with that registrar again. He knows so much and always asks me all those questions I don’t know the answers to... And then he’s so sarcastic in front of the nursing staff if I can't give him the right answer. I dread seeing him.

Beep, beep, beep
Sick patient on cardiology ward. Oh, no, that patient looks terrible. SOB, chest sounds awful. But I am not sure what’s wrong with them. What do I do?’

Tip for dealing with this scenario
No-one expects you to make the correct diagnosis 100% of the time. The important thing to know as a junior doctor is:
1. the patient is unwell,
2. I am not sure what to do
3. I can call for help.

Try not to take it personally if a senior treats you rudely. Unfortunately, rudeness is often a way of expressing one’s own insecurity (from Health and Wellbeing of Junior Doctors).

You can talk to someone about the bullying or prejudice situation. Speak to your supervisor or a senior staff member and/or contact the Medical Education Advisor or Director of Clinical Training in your workplace (see pages 6 and 7 for contact details).
Move Well

We know that physical activity is important for health.

There are huge benefits to getting even a small amount of physical activity each day, both mentally and physically. Being active gives you more energy, helps you sleep better, reduces the risk of depression and can help to prevent a range of chronic diseases.

Step 1 – Think of movement as an opportunity, not an inconvenience
Step 2 – Be active every day in as many ways as you can
Step 3 – Put together at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days
Step 4 – If you can, also enjoy some regular, vigorous activity for extra health and fitness

What is the difference between ‘moderate’ and ‘vigorous’ physical activity?

Moderate-intensity activity will cause a slight but noticeable increase in your breathing and heart rate. A good example of moderate-intensity activity is brisk walking; that is, at a pace where you are able to talk comfortably, but not sing. Moderate-intensity activity should be carried out for at least 10 minutes at a time.

Vigorous activity is where you “huff and puff”; for example, where talking in full sentences between breaths is difficult. Vigorous activity can come from such sports as football, squash, netball, basketball and activities such as aerobics, speed walking, jogging, and fast cycling.

It sometimes seems difficult to fit physical activity into your day. Here are some activities you can do every day:

- Take the stairs rather than the lift, or walk rather than use escalators;
- Park your car where you can fit in a 15 minute or longer walk to and from work;
- Start a walking group with colleagues or friends and stick to a routine of certain days or times to go out together;
- Buy yourself a pedometer – a gadget that when worn on your hip counts how many steps you take. Use this to increase your daily steps; or
- Walk or cycle instead of using the car for short trips

More about being physically active is available at the “Measure Up” website.
How physically active are you? Take a quiz...
Loads of resources to inspire to move...
Take 10,000 steps today... learn more at this website
The National Physical Activity Guidelines for Adults are available in pdf form.
Eat Well

We also know it’s important to eat healthily and sensibly.

The *Australian Dietary Guidelines* provide up-to-date advice about the amount and kinds of foods that we need to eat for health and wellbeing. By following the eating patterns recommended in the Guidelines, we will get enough of the nutrients essential for good health.

**Eating Regularly**
It’s essential for weight control and especially weight loss, to recognise and act on the feedback your body gives you about when and how much you need to eat. However it’s also important to aim for a regular eating pattern of meals, or meals and mid meals.

**Skipping breakfast?**
Breakfast skippers are more likely to be tempted by unplanned choices during the morning and large serves at the next meal or snack. Just think of how yummy those large baked muffins look at morning tea if you’ve missed breakfast! People who regularly eat a healthy breakfast are much more likely to be eating well than those who skip breakfast.

**Eat with other people not TV**
We also know that people who eat with others and eat at the dining table, are more likely to eat regularly and eat well than those who eat alone or in front of the TV. Meals with others tend to include more foods from the five food groups. For example, people often report that they can’t be bothered cooking vegetables just for themselves. Good meal planning and making healthy choices can sometimes be tricky but a few useful tips can make it easier.

**Click on these topics for more information**
- Eating away from home
- Choosing nutritious foods
- Healthy eating on a budget
- Food shopping tips
- How to add variety to your diet
- Quick and easy meals
- Meal Planning
- Healthy meal and snack ideas

**More healthy eating and nutrition information:**
- Healthy eating ideas from the Go 2&5 website.
- Resources for health professionals at the Better Health Channel website.
- More about nutrition at the Nutrition Australia website.

**How can you use food to boost your mood?**

**Don’t Banish Carbs -- Just Choose ‘Smart’ Ones**
The connection between carbohydrates and mood is all about tryptophan, a nonessential amino acid (found in many protein foods). As more tryptophan enters the brain, more serotonin is synthesized in the brain, and mood tends to improve. You can actually boost your tryptophan levels by eating more carbohydrates... read more...

**Get More Omega-3 Fatty Acids**
Researchers have noted that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (found in fatty fish, flaxseed, and walnuts) may help protect against depression... read more...
Stay Well

Deep breathing relaxation

Focused breathing exercises can help you fight everyday stress. To get the best out of living in our modern life, we have to counteract the effects of excessive stress by creating a place of refuge.

That place can be as simple as a practice of deep conscious breathing. Breathing exercises can help if you have stress, anxiety, insomnia or chronic pain. Slowing down your breathing short circuits the stress response, giving your brain the message that all is well and your body can return to normal, for a while anyway.

**Rib breathing**

This basic and easy-to-practice breathing exercise involves the deliberate expansion and contraction of your ribcage as you focus your awareness on your inhalation and exhalation. This practice can be done while you are sitting. Close your eyes, this brings your focus inwards. Straighten your spine, you may like to place your hands on your ribcage to feel the movement there.

With every inhalation feel the expansion of your ribcage front, side and back. With every exhalation slowly contract your ribcage. Keep breathing in this way for a while, consciously expanding and contracting your ribcage. As you move more deeply into the practice you will begin to feel you are drawing energy into your whole body with every inhalation. With every exhalation you are letting go of tension in your body. *Your inhalation is energising, your exhalation is relaxing.*

Source: [http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/stories/2008/12/16/2440879.htm#a#a](http://www.abc.net.au/health/library/stories/2008/12/16/2440879.htm#a#a)

**Simple stretches**

**Shoulder roll:** This movement helps relieve tension in the upper back and shoulders. Sitting or standing upright, inhale as you lift your right shoulder to your ear. Exhale as you slowly roll your shoulder around and back, dropping it away from your ear. Continue the rolls three more times, alternating right and left. Then inhale as you lift both shoulders up to the ears. Exhale as you release them. Repeat five times and then relax your shoulders.

**Neck stretch:** This is particularly good for a stiff neck. Sit upright without letting your back touch the back of your chair. Align your head directly over your spine and feel the crown of your head lifting. Breathe in and on the exhalation, drop your right ear toward your right shoulder without lifting your right shoulder or turning your head. Take several breaths in and out, feeling the stretch on the left side of your neck. For a deeper stretch, reach over your head and place your right hand on the left side of the head to gently pull your neck away from your shoulders. At the same time hold firmly onto the chair with your left hand to draw your shoulder away from your neck. Hold for five breaths. Release and slowly lift your head and repeat the sequence on the other side.

Source: Clare Rafferty, Yoga from the Heart (Macquarie St, Hobart) [www.yogafromtheheart.com.au](http://www.yogafromtheheart.com.au)
Mindfulness

Mindfulness is a form of self-awareness training adapted from meditation. Mindfulness is about being aware of what is happening in the present on a moment by moment basis.

Mindfulness enables you to pay attention in the present moment and to have a clear mind. It makes it possible to respond rather than react to situations, therefore improving our decision making and potential for relaxation.

Optimal performance can be cultivated through a calm and focused state of mind, which can be called mindfulness. It means learning to focus our attention and energy effectively while releasing the inhibiting effect of tension (Hassad, 2002).

Some mindfulness techniques to practise

One Minute Exercise:
- Sit in front of a clock or watch to time the passing of one minute. Focus your entire attention on your breathing, and nothing else for one minute. Have a go – do it now.

Mindful Eating:
- This involves sitting down at a table and eating without any distractions, no newspaper, book, TV, radio, music or talking.
- Now eat your food paying full attention to which piece of food you select to eat, how it looks, how it smells, the muscles you use to raise the food to your mouth, the texture and taste of the food as you chew it slowly.
- You will be amazed how different food tastes when eaten in this way. It is also very good for the digestion.

Mindful Walking:
- While walking, concentrate on the feel of the ground under your feet, and your breathing while you are walking. Observe what is around you, staying in the present. Let your other thoughts go and enjoy the moment (Elliston, 2001).

More mindfulness...

Guided mindfulness meditations – these are downloadable.
Mindfulness in everyday life – practical hints on how to be mindful in your everyday life.
Be mindful... targeted to medical professionals, this website offers resources and training opportunities.
Mindfulness@Monash – showcases the work being done at Monash University but also provides good information, resources and tips for daily mindfulness.
Health and Wellbeing at the Launceston General Hospital

The LGH Staff Gymnasium

Take advantage of the Launceston General Hospital Staff Gymnasium for only $1 per week. Some of the facilities include:
- exercise bikes and treadmill
- weight machines
- aerobic steppers
- free weights
- security access
- changerooms close by

Contact

If you would like more information, please contact:

Tony Waller
Phone: 03 6348 7554
Email: tony.waller@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Career decision, learning and counselling

Myers Briggs Personality Inventory profiles are available to assist with learning, team work and career specialty decisions. Professional and person counselling is also available. These support services are free and confidential.

For more information please contact:

Robin Ikin, Medical Education Advisor
Phone: 03 6348 7428
Email: robin.ikin@dhhs.tas.gov.au
Health and Wellbeing at the Royal Hobart Hospital

Enjoy the gym: RHH Staff Health and Fitness Centre

The Health and Fitness Centre's aim is to provide personalised exercise options and to promote good health, well-being and to have fun.

The Centre is equipped with modern computerised aerobic equipment and both pin loaded and free weight resistance machines.

Membership is available to all employees of DHHS. If you are interested in joining or would like to check out the facilities, contact 6222 8944 and schedule an appointment time. You will be required to have an assessment prior to joining. This is NOT a pass or fail situation and is relatively painless. The results are used as a benchmark for your health and fitness improvement in the future and to select appropriate exercise programs or options. All personal fitness assessment information is strictly confidential.

Membership fees are $11.00 per fortnight. It entitles you to a full fitness assessment, exercise prescription and the ongoing support of the Centre's Health and Fitness Instructor. A once only access fee of $20 will grant you 24 hour, 7 days a week access. If you wish to have the fitness assessment only without joining a charge of $60 will apply.

To find out more please contact:
Nick Corney, Fitness Centre Manager
Phone: 03 6222 8944
Email: nick.corney@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Visit the Fitness Centre Website...

What is Feel Better - Staff Health and Wellbeing Program?
This health promotion program is being run by THO South to encourage and support staff focus on their own health and wellbeing.

If you are a staff member, visit the Fitness Centre intranet site here

If you are a staff member, visit the Feel Better intranet site here
Support for Junior Medical Officers

Medical support

Your own GP - Finding a GP

It is very important to choose a GP whom you can trust and can manage your health care needs, including emotional health issues.

The Tasmania Medicare Local website offers a National Health Services Directory. You can search for a local General Practitioner using this service.

When you visit the National Health Services Directory site, you can search for a local GP.
Support for Junior Medical Officers

Professional support

A number of organisations and personnel are able to provide professional support to doctors and offer a valuable source of experience and knowledge.

The Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania (PMCT) is responsible for prevocational medical education in Tasmania for doctors in their first 2-3 years of post qualification. PMCT facilitates education and support of Junior Medical Officers including International Medical Graduates working in Tasmanian public hospitals. For more information please visit the PMCT website.

The Australian Medical Association and its members are committed to ensuring professional values, excellence in teaching and research, and the delivery of high quality health care. Please visit the AMA Tasmania website.

The JMO Forum is a Prevocational Medical Council of Tasmania subcommittee. The Forum provides a platform for pre-vocational trainees to discuss issues regarding education, accreditation and wellbeing. Please visit the website.
Support for Junior Medical Officers

Personal support

Working as a doctor can be very demanding. A support network can reduce feelings of isolation and can help deal with stress related problems. It can also provide a way to share feelings and ideas with others. Our family and friends are generally our most essential support system. On many occasions, the people you work with can be the strongest source of support. These people can be those you call on if you are experiencing problems.

Where to go for help:
- Your registrar
- Your supervisor and/or Director of Clinical Training
- Medical Education Advisor
- Your GP
- The Employee Assistance Program
- The Victorian Doctors Health Program
- The AMA Peer Support Program

Support in your workplace: The Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

is a confidential counselling service for employees of DHHS and their eligible family members, paid for by your employer at no cost to you.

This service is provided by an independent, professional organisation called Davidson Trahaire Corpsych (DTC). All DTC counsellors are qualified, experienced professionals who have extensive training and experience in counselling, coaching and workplace consulting.

There is more information about the EAP on the DHHS website.

The Victorian Doctors Health Program is a confidential and compassionate service for doctors and medical students with health concerns including stress & anxiety problems, substance use disorders, mental health disorders, any other health problems, including physical health concerns.

Call 03 9495 6011 anytime or visit the VDHP website.

The AMA Tasmania Peer Support Service is provided by AMA Victoria on behalf of AMA Tasmania for both members and non-members. It provides peer support for doctors by doctors. All volunteer telephone counsellors are trained and experienced doctors. They have a broad experience in medical practice and represent a wide range of specialties.

Call 1300 853 330 (cost of a local call) 365 days of the year from 8.00am to 11.00pm

Visit the Peer Support section of the AMA Tasmania website.
Resources and Contacts

Websites

- **Health and wellbeing of junior doctors**
  This website is an initiative created by doctors in NSW. The information is well presented and relevant for all Australian doctors. More information on the website.

- **beyondblue: the national depression initiative**
  *beyondblue* is a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related substance misuse disorders in Australia. More information on the beyondblue website.

- **The Black Dog Institute**
  The Black Dog Institute is a not-for-profit, educational, research, clinical and community-oriented facility offering specialist expertise in depression and bipolar disorder. The Black Dog Institute website provides more information.

- **The Psychological Toolkit**
  The Psychological Toolkit is a collection of practical resources available for health professionals to assist in the management of mood disorders in their clinical work. The materials include questionnaires to assist health professionals in the assessment of depression, charts to assist with treatment protocols, tools for self-monitoring, and exercises for patients. See more including fact sheets at this website.

- **Druginfo**
  DrugInfo Clearinghouse is a program of the Australian Drug Foundation. It provides easy access to information about alcohol and other drugs, and drug prevention. Learn more about DrugInfo Clearinghouse.

- **Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression**
  This website, backed by the University of New South Wales, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney and the World Health Organization Collaborating Center at the hospital, offers information so that people can help themselves. It offers comprehensive information so that doctors are aware of the right treatment, and it offers information on the latest in research in this area. Visit the website.
Resources and Contacts

Online courses and programs

**myCompass** (Black Dog Institute) is an interactive self-help service that aims to promote resilience and wellbeing for all Australians. myCompass is a guide to good mental health – it points you in the right direction. You can track your moods, write about them and view information and tips. You can also choose to do one of the modules designed to help you manage mild to moderate stress, anxiety and depression.

**CALM (Computer Assisted Learning for the Mind)**
Audiofiles available for download giving specific techniques to manage three sources of long lasting happiness - mental resilience, healthy relationships and finding meaning in life.

**The MoodGYM**
Learn cognitive behavioural therapy skills for preventing and coping with depression.

**E-couch**
Online program for preventing and coping with depression, generalised anxiety disorder, and social anxiety disorder.

**Mood Swings**
This site is an online self-help tool for people with bipolar disorder. Material used in this website is based on an effective face-to-face group program found to be successful in reducing episodes of illness.

Helplines

- **AMA peer support service (available to both AMA members and non-members)**
  - 1300 853 330 from 8.00am to 11.00 pm

- **Lifeline in Tasmania (Hobart)**
  - 24 hour crisis telephone counselling service 13 11 14
  - Crisis face–to–face counselling
  - Suicide Prevention Programs
  Helpline: 13 11 14

For more information visit the [Lifeline website.](#)

- **Al-Anon (support for relatives and friends of alcoholics)**
  Helpline: 1300 252 666
  The website offers help and information.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
  Helpline: Hobart 6234 8711, Launceston 6334 7060
  Visit the [Alcoholics Anonymous Australia](#) website.

- **G-Line (problem gambling)**
  Helpline: 1800 622 112
Recommended Reading

Keeping the doctor alive
Published by: The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, 2006

This guidebook provides medical practitioners with information and resources on strategies for self care as an essential element of their professional life. It aims to encourage medical practitioners to recognise and discuss the challenges facing them, promote self care as an integral and accepted part of the professional life of medical practitioners, and assists to develop useful strategies for self care.

This resource is available for purchase from the RACGP website. (and is available for loan from the RMO Library, RHH, Room 595, RMO quarters, Level 5)

Know Thyself: the stress release programme, Dr Craig Hassad
Published by: Michelle Anderson Publishing Pty Ltd, 2002

This book incorporates mindfulness in a practical, simple and direct way to enhance mental and physical wellbeing, relationships and productivity. It is based on current research evidence and the principles and practices upon which it is based have been tested over many centuries. The course outlined in the book has been adapted for health professionals and the general public alike. It has been used in the training of doctors at Monash University and also at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners since 1991.

This resource is available for loan from the RMO Library, RHH, Room 595, RMO quarters, Level 5

Taking care of yourself and your family: a resource book for good mental health, 10th edition, John Ashfield
Published by: Government of South Australia and beyondblue

This book is a source of basic information about a range of mental health and related issues. It is a guide for helping others, or prompting them to seek assistance, in the event of a mental health issue and a resource of strategies and self-help therapies that have been adapted from some widely used and documented standard psychological therapies.

This resource is also available for loan from the RMO Library, RHH, Room 595, RMO quarters, Level 5
References


Health and Wellbeing Guide for JMOs contacts:

Postgraduate Medical Council of Tasmania (PMCT)
[www.pmct.org.au](http://www.pmct.org.au)

Dr Lynn Hemmings, Medical Education Advisor
Email: lynn.hemmings@dhhs.tas.gov.au