

# Zooming In to an Online Interview Training Program

NAGUBANDI P, MCCUAIG R

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SUBIACO, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## INTRODUCTION

The application process for the FRANZCOG training program is becoming increasingly competitive. The interview component is weighted at 40% for the final selection. Many institutions provide structured interview training to prospective trainees. Our institution planned to pilot a four session face-to-face structured program in 2020. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, sessions were conducted online via Zoom.

## METHODS

Twenty-four prospective trainees participated in the program, fifteen intending to apply to the training program in 2020 and nine intending to apply in future years. Six facilitators were recruited to coordinate the program. Facilitators were consultants or third year registrars and above.

Following completion of the program and the FRANZCOG interviews and prior to the release of training program offers, 10-question online surveys were sent to participants and facilitators to evaluate the course and identify areas for improvement. Responses were anonymous. Three reminders were sent to each group to encourage participation.

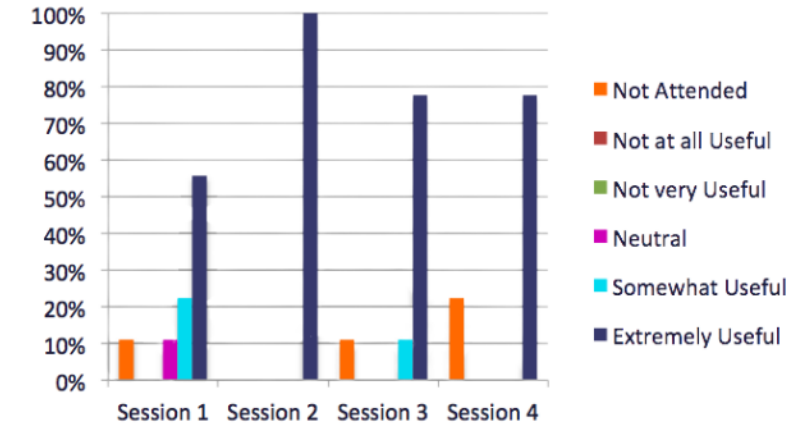
## RESULTS

Nine responses were received from the prospective trainees (37.5%). Seven responses (77.8%) were from 2020 applicants and the remaining two (22.2%) were from those intending to apply in future years. All responders felt the course was useful; seven (77.8%) felt it was "Somewhat Useful" and two (22.2%) felt it was "Extremely Useful". All nine responders (100.0%) felt the feedback was "Always constructive". Feedback on each individual session is outlined in Table 1.

Five responses (83.3%) were received from the facilitators. All five felt they had adequate experience to facilitate, the course was very useful, feedback was constructive, there were enough sessions and would be happy to coordinate again. Sessions were evaluated to be progressively more useful by those who were able to facilitate, as outlined in table 2.

## DISCUSSION

Overall, facilitators and participants felt the program should continue into future years. Improvements to be introduced include homework between sessions, written feedback, and standardised marking sheets. Consideration will also be given to continuation of the course in an online format versus a face-to-face format; the final decision will be influenced by the status of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as RANZCOG's proposed interview format, that is, continuation of online interviews versus resumption of face-to-face interviews.

**TABLE 1. SESSION FEEDBACK FROM PROSPECTIVE TRAINEES****TABLE 2. SESSION FEEDBACK FROM FACILITATORS**