

Dr Ralph Poppenbeek

Occupational Physician

MB BS MPH FAFOEM (RACP)



Current Appointments

Independent Medical Examiner

Worksafe, Victoria

- Medical assessments
- Plaintiff medical assessments
- Fitness for Duty assessments

Lecturer, Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Department of Epidemiology, Monash University

Medical Consultant
Recovre Occupational Rehabilitation

Professional Experience

Medical assessment and treatment of occupational diseases/injuries and environmental exposures at Melbourne office, including worksite assessments. 2013-2018

Supervising/mentoring trainee in Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Delivered paper at ANZSOM conference and undertook many sessions at seminars in optimal management of workplace injuries, chronic pain disorders and interpretation of radiology

Undertook research. Had article published in medical journal

IME work in VIC, SA and NT. Continuing treatment practice in Melbourne. Completed training for AMA 4, 5, 6 Impairment Assessment 2007-2013

Honary examiner in Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Delivered paper at Glasgow University Medical Faculty

One of three Specialists on Worksafe Panel for determining eligibility for Spinal Cord Stimulator Implant treatment for chronic pain

Successfully completed FAFOEM (RACP) fellowship course 2004-2007

Medical assessments and treatment consultations at Melbourne Office



Combined occupational/environmental medicine and general practice in Melbourne CBD, including IME and worksite work	1980-2004
Master of Public Health Degree Monash University	1993-1995
City General Practice	1977-1980
Resident Medical Officer 2nd Year Austin Hospital, Melbourne	1976-1977
Resident Medical Officer 1st Year Western General Hospital, Melbourne	1975-1976

Professional Interests

Delivering lectures and presenting at seminars on topics including chronic pain, optimal workplace assessment and successful and compassionate injury management.

Management and investigation of causes for chronic pain and delayed recovery. Over 10 years involvement in this field.

Worksite assessments. Most industries examined over an approximate 20-year period. Investigation into incidence of zoonotic diseases conducted in Melbourne abattoir.

Impairment Assessments:

Completed training in Melbourne in AMA 4th Edition Guides by the Australian Medical Association in the following modules:

- Core
- Spine
- Upper Extremity
- Lower Extremity
- Nervous System
- Haematology

Completed training in AMA 5th and 6th Edition Guides in Adelaide (SA Workcover), when working in Adelaide and Darwin.

Teaching medical students and rehabilitation consultants. I emphasise the need for accurate diagnosis before commencing treatment and treating patients with respect at all times.

