



MEDIA RELEASE
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First studies on medical student data

The first studies using data collected on almost 12,700 Australian medical students will be presented at a one-day conference in Sydney on Friday.

The studies include an analysis of what happens to foreign students who graduate as doctors in Australia, including how many choose to stay on in Australia and practise medicine.

Seven projects will feature at the Inaugural Research Forum for the Medical Schools Outcomes Database and Longitudinal Tracking (MSOD) project, with the research based on the material in the database.

The MSOD project is the world's first nationally coordinated project that tracks medical students through university and then follows their medical careers. The project began in 2005 and involves all 18 Australian medical schools.

It is funded by the Federal Government and hosted by Medical Deans — which represents 18 medical schools in Australia and two in New Zealand — in collaboration with eight other stakeholders. Health Workforce Australia has funded the project since July, and is now using MSOD data to inform the National Training Plan.

'The MSOD project was first funded seven years ago and has now amassed a significant amount of information that can be tapped into by researchers,' said the Chair of the MSOD Board, Professor Nicholas Glasgow.

The project collects demographic, educational and career intention data from new medical students, during their course and on exit. Graduating doctors are followed up after one, three and five years.

Professor Glasgow said the project was a rich source of data for researchers and those shaping health workforce policy. 'The database is of national significance because it will give us an understanding of what influences doctors' career choices and will help with future workforce planning.'

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner will attend the conference at the Aerial UTS Function Centre in Ultimo.

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