

Media Release
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Deans welcome new intern places

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand has warmly welcomed today's announcement of an additional 116 medical internship places in Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

'Medical Deans has been working closely with the Federal Government to broker a solution and we are pleased to see this positive outcome in these four jurisdictions,' said Medical Deans' President Professor Justin Beilby.

The Federal Government today announced that under the agreement WA, the ACT, Queensland and NT will fund an additional 32 internships in their public hospitals. In return the Commonwealth will fund an additional 84 intern places in 2013, almost all in private hospitals.

'Despite this welcome news, there will be still a small number of medical graduates facing uncertainty about whether they can gain an internship place in 2013,' Professor Beilby said.

'We would hope the model outlined in these jurisdictions, which uses internship places in private hospitals as part of a deal with the Commonwealth for additional funding for internships, can quickly be adopted in other states.'

'I would urge those states that have not found a solution to rapidly do so before time runs out.'

'On behalf of Medical Deans I want to thank the Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek and the Department of Health and Ageing for their vision and continuing patience in finding solutions to the current shortage of intern places.'

Professor Beilby said Medical Deans also welcomed part of the WA announcement that included the addition of 40 extra GP registrar training positions in WA over the next two years. 'This is an important step that acknowledges the training path and will help ensure Australians can get access to a doctor when they need one.'

More information, Justin Beilby: (08) 8303 5193 or 0403 017 457