

Media Release
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Deans welcome new WA intern places

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand has welcomed today's announcement of an additional 40 medical internship places in the Western Australian hospital system.

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

Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory have also agreed to fund additional intern places, it emerged today, 'which is again very positive news and we look forward to seeing the details'.

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

'We would hope the model outlined in WA, 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.'

Professor Beilby said as there still appeared to be a shortage of places for the number of graduates in 2012. 'I would urge those states that have not found a solution to rapidly do so before time runs out.'

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'.

'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.'

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