



FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2012

Medical education for the future

The challenges of investing in a clinical academic workforce will be one of the highlights of discussion at the MedEd12 Conference beginning in Sydney today.

Delegates will also discuss innovation, the importance of widening access to a medical education and how best to invest for the future.

The conference will be officially opened by the Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek.

'This is an important time for medical education, which faces challenges on several fronts,' said Professor Justin Beilby, President of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, the organiser of the conference.

'This meeting gives the leaders in medical education the opportunity to challenge current thinking and debate how best we should train the next generation of Australian doctors.'

A key element for discussion is the challenge of ensuring there are enough clinical academics available to teach medical students.

'In recent years there has been a significant rise in the number of medical students, and in turn there has been a corresponding demand to find the people to teach them,' Professor Beilby said.

'Our challenge is to ensure the quality of teaching remains high, to ensure our graduates maintain the high standards established in Australia.'

Key speakers at the two-day conference include UK academic Professor Jim McKillop, Australia's Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb and futurist Dr Peter Ellyard.

Medical Deans is made up of the Deans of Australia's 18 university medical schools and the two New Zealand schools.

The conference is supported by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing, the Australian Medical Council, the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges, the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils and Health Workforce Australia.