

**Media Release**  
**22 February 2013**

### **Demand rising for Australia-trained docs**

FEDERAL Health Minister Tanya Plibersek says every medical graduate should get an internship given the unceasing demand for Australian-trained doctors.

“We’re going to have a huge need for doctors in the future, and doubling the number of medical students that we’re training will go some of the way in meeting that future demand,” Ms Plibersek told AAP outside the National Medical Intern Summit in Sydney on Friday.

“There will always be jobs for Australian-trained doctors. What we’ve got to make sure we do is place those interns so they get a little bit of experience before they’re off on their own.”

More than a quarter of doctors in Australia had come from overseas, she said.

“There’s nothing wrong with those doctors, but doctors who are trained in Australia are familiar with our medical system,” she said.

Ms Plibersek said there should be enough jobs for full-fee paying international students that train in Australia.

All Australian medical graduates found internships for 2013, but about 200 international students reportedly missed out.

“Those interns are valuable, and we should do our very best to keep them here in Australia,” Ms Plibersek said.

“We need to make sure that we’re training enough students. We need to make sure we’re training them in rural and regional areas as well.

“We need to make sure as we’re training specialists in the future that they’re not just sticking to our cities but also moving to the bush as well.”

The Australian  
AAP  
22 February 2013