



MEDIA RELEASE
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Deans welcome support to put junior doctors where we need them

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement today to boost the numbers of junior doctor clinical training places in rural and regional Australia and the private sector.

'This is an important step toward growing the clinical training capacity to cater for our next generation of junior doctors,' said the President of Medical Deans, Professor Peter Smith.

'Importantly it supports putting doctors where patients need them. We are all committed to finding clinical training solutions that will meet the health care needs of all Australians regardless of where they live.'

Professor Smith said this increase will also play a significant role in further improving the quality of medical training in Australia.

'We know that patients seek their medical care in a range of settings including private doctor's rooms, large public hospitals and country hospitals and clinics. It makes sense that this is where our doctors of tomorrow should be training too'.

The majority of Australian medical schools provide medical students with dedicated rural training as part of the Federal Government's ongoing investment in Rural Clinical Schools.

Professor Smith said providing clinical training in varied settings offers an opportunity to influence where those new graduates eventually work, with the aim of increasing doctor numbers in areas of workforce shortage.

Professor Smith said that since 2005, Medical Deans has been following medical students across Australia to see how their careers developed and where they chose to practise medicine.

'This ongoing study (the Medical Schools Outcomes Database and Longitudinal Tracking Project) now covers more than 20,000 students and doctors, and has been a contributory data source for HWA during the development of Health Workforce 2025.'

'This study is continuing to follow doctors as they progress in their careers, and is proving a rich source of data to inform medical education and workforce planning.'

Professor Smith said all Australian-trained medical students, including those from overseas who paid their own fees, offered the most ethical and effective way of ensuring Australia was self-sufficient in doctors by 2025.

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

More information, Peter Smith: 02 9385 2451