

Medical Deans Fact Sheet

PROFESSION ENTRY MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA: CONTRIBUTIONS AND COSTS FOR DOMESTIC STUDENTS

- Domestic students with a CSP (Commonwealth supported place) currently pay a maximum of \$10,085 per year (Band 3) for tuition fees to study medicine in Australia (except for the private University Bond). Students pay this each year irrespective of the length of the course (4-6 years) and the type of professional entry level qualification ie undergraduate or post graduate degree.
- The tax payer (via University cluster funding band 8) contributes \$21,273 per student per year, again irrespective of the length of the course and type of qualification
- If under the proposed Government changes proposed for 2016 the tax payer contribution to Medicine decreases by 18% to approximately \$17,444 per student per year, Universities would effectively need to increase the student tuition component to \$13,914 per year to break even.
- This would mean a change in the % burden of contribution on the medical student to change from 32.2% to 44.3%
- Under this break even model, a student completing a 4 year professional entry medical course (63% of Australian medical courses) would have a final HECCs debt of \$55,656 vs the current debt of \$40,340.
- Following detailed modelling in 2011, Medical Deans found that it actually costs a University \$50,272 – 51,149 per year to train a single doctor during their profession entry level course. Currently Universities receive less than 62% (ie \$31,358 per student per year) of the true costs of training.
- If the new Higher Education Government proposals are legislated Universities will need to assess both the available contributions and costs of training a doctor at their institution and set student tuition fees accordingly.
- Medical Deans are dismayed to see advertised on the Greens party website an estimated total degree cost for Medicine of \$227,000 for a domestic student in a deregulated market given the facts shown above.