

2 November 2016

The Editor  
Sydney Morning Herald  
Via email: [letters@smh.com.au](mailto:letters@smh.com.au)

Dear Editor

I am writing in response to the article about discrimination and bullying of medical students published on the 2 November 16.

All medical students deserve to learn medicine free from bullying and discrimination. Medical schools want to develop the next generation of doctors through teaching and learning in a respectful environment.

Individual universities have policies on bullying and harassment which also apply to medical schools and schools are required to meet the Australian Medical Council accreditation standards.

Medical students spend a significant part of their degree undertaking clinical training in hospitals and health services. Medical schools work with colleges and health services to support a clinical training workplace free from unacceptable behaviour. Medical Deans recently signed the "Statement of Agreed Principles on a Respectful Culture in Medicine" committing signatories to eradicate bullying and harassment.

Students also need to know what to do if they experience bullying, harassment and inappropriate behavior. Clear and robust reporting processes are essential. Medical school programmes provide formal presentations and information to students. Student support staff also assist students and direct them to the correct people and complaints processes. There is always more we can do and Medical Deans will continue to work with AMSA in this important area.

Studying to become a doctor is a rigorous and tough course. Medical schools take seriously our role to produce safe and competent interns. However the teaching and practice of medicine should always occur within a safe environment for all those involved.

Yours sincerely



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