



Medical Deans Newsletter

Its been a while

As I type this column the Parliament has broken for the holiday season with uncertainties about the future of the revised HE reforms bill just as strong as they were at budget time. If this new bill was to be passed in the Senate early next year, this would clear the path to full fee deregulation in the Australian HE sector from 2016 and represent one of the most significant changes ever to be seen in the sector.

While Medical Deans welcome the proposed Medical Research Futures Fund and the extraordinary opportunity to sustainably fund medical research in Australia we know this proposal linked to a revised Medicare co payment as part of the revenue stream is problematic, and its passage through Senate in its new iteration is also uncertain. For those interested in the Government's policies in health it would appear the main game is still 'putting a price signal into Medicare' (L Tingle). The proposed changes to indexation and reduced rebates are certainly that!

On the local front Medical Deans repositions itself for a leaner few years whilst maintaining activities and advocacy that are relevant to both members and key external stakeholders.

The year has meant saying good-bye to good friends like Health Workforce Australia but welcoming new alliances with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons just to name a few.

Over the page we provide members with a few good news stories and updates on some of our key initiatives. We also say good bye to some of the 'Medical Dean's family' and wish them well with their next adventures. I am confident 2015 will be a good year... a very different year.... but never the less, a good one.

I wish you and your families a very safe and happy holiday period.



Medical Deans wishes to express its deep sadness for the senseless loss of innocent life and the mental and physical harm inflicted on the hostages from the Lindt café siege. We did not personally know the victims but know, that like others in the city, may have passed them in the street or stood next to them in the café. We send our thoughts and prayers to the survivors and the families and friends of all involved. We will be happy to take up the charge and be the first amongst many others and return to Lindt café in the event of them re opening

Judy Searle
CEO
18 Dec 2014



3549 predicted graduates from Australia and **439** from New Zealand in 2014

Up to **3327** available state and Commonwealth **intern places** for 2015

3676 applications for **2015 intern positions** in Australia (192 were AMC candidates or graduates from AMC accredited off shore programs)

INTERNAL NEWS

- **MSOD dataset—the next phase**

MSOD dataset has now over 30,000 participants and is evolving into a critical workforce planning tool.

Medical Deans will develop **the next phase of the MSOD dataset**. This next phase will include establishing processes for data linkage with AHPRA and the national health workforce dataset to track students from medical school, to PGY1, vocational training and beyond. Medical students in their final or penultimate year will continue to be recruited each year into the MSOD survey which will be delivered on line but at their local medical school sites. AIHW will continue to be subcontracted to house and manage the dataset on our behalf and Medical Deans will commence a new form of reporting based on yearly aggregated and trend data and data linkage.



- **Assessment Quality Assurance opportunities for members**

We will be writing to you soon to update you on an exciting [new collaboration with the Australian Medical Council](#) around sharing assessment items to assist in quality assurance activities and sharing expertise in clinical assessment and examiner training.

In addition we have flagged with you the upcoming Assessment Benchmarking Workshop that will be held on **April 15, 2015** in Sydney.



In 2014
over **27%** of commencing domestic medical students in Australia came from a rural background

Annual Conference
October 2014,
Geelong

OTHER NEWS

Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

The new Academy headed up by Professor Ian Frazer is currently considering nominations for the first round of elected Fellows. The Academy will be formally launched in March 2015 but is already incorporated and registered as a charity. Its charter will include support for Fellows, mentoring and support for future health researchers and advocacy. The Academy plans to have state based offices over time.

Medical Research Futures Fund Action Group

Both Medical Deans and the Go8 Medical Deans group are represented on this action group who continue to advocate for the MRFF. Further information about their work can be found at www.imagineahealthierfuture.org

Review of Internship

Professor Andrew Wilson and Dr Anne-Marie Feyer will head the review of Internship being conducted over the next 12 months. They will be meeting with Medical Deans at a date yet TBD. More information can be found at www.ahmac.gov.au/site/home.aspx

Farewells from Medical Deans

Medical Deans bids farewell to **Bal Kaur** after nearly 10 years on the MSOD project. The MSOD project is not the robust and well regarded dataset it is today without the tireless commitment from Bal and her team over the years. We wish Bal all the best in her ventures.



Karin Oldfield who headed up our Assessment Benchmarking Project also left us during the year to re join our friends at AMC and be close to her family. We hear however that she did enjoy her 'gap year' in Sydney.



Adam Seifman, our business manager for almost 5 years has also moved onto an exciting new opportunity with



Matrix on Board

Medical Deans also welcomes Dan Dumbrell to the team who will take on a key role as a project and research officer responsible for maintaining and developing a number of key datasets with Medical Deans

Medical Deans farewells **Professor Ian Puddey**, Executive Dean, University of Western Australia and member of Medical Deans Executive

Ian has been a loyal contributor to Medical Deans for nearly 10 years and has served on Executive since October 2012. We all know that many of these extra roles and tasks outside our 'day job' often go unthanked and are at times very demanding.

I am sure everyone will agree with me that Ian's words of wisdom have been invaluable over the years and always delivered with a clarity and insight second to none.

On behalf of the organisation I please accept our sincere thanks and we wish you and your family all the very best for the next stage of your career.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Faculty Managers mid year meeting— Adelaide, 17 March 2015
- Assessment Quality Assurance Day Workshop—Sydney, 15 April 2015
- Standing Committee and AGM- Parliament House, Canberra , 23 June 2015
- Annual Conference 2015—Hobart , 8-9 October 2015

Sometime during the first half of 2015 Medical Deans office will relocate to new premises in the CBD of Sydney. Watch this space for updates.