



## Medical Deans Newsletter



### Welcome to Issue 8

The countdown to the Medical Deans Annual Conference is well and truly on. The Conference promises to be a stimulating few days discussing some of the key challenges confronting medical education in the beautiful Illawarra coastal environment. This year the Conference also includes a half day Indigenous Knowledge Initiative held in conjunction with AIDA. This will be an opportunity to critically examine how medical education can contribute to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Clinical placements and the development of a teaching and training classification have been a significant focus recently. The Independent Health Pricing Authority (IHPA) have indicated they intend to develop a teaching and training classification. This will of course be an issue of great interest to Medical Deans. The existing Teaching, Training and Research Working group will be the body taking this work forward and Medical Deans are represented on this group. There will also be extensive consultation throughout the process and IHPA will give a presentation at the Medical Deans Annual Conference. A key priority for Medical Deans will be to ensure that a teaching and training classification recognises the importance of clinical training in maintaining a high quality and well trained health workforce and the contribution students make while on clinical placements.

The 2016 Medical Students Workforce Survey has been distributed to all schools for completion by final year medical students. The survey provides the information for the Medical Students Outcome Database (MSOD) which is a credible source of workforce planning information for Government and policy makers. Medical Deans discussed at the June mid-year meeting the importance of a high return rate for the surveys. The Project Officer, Steve Russell is working closely with schools to provide support in the implementation of the survey. Please don't hesitate to contact Steve on [srussell@medicaldeans.org.au](mailto:srussell@medicaldeans.org.au) should you need any assistance.

The President and I recently met with the new Assistant Minister for Rural Health, Dr David Gillespie. This was a very productive meeting and enabled us to present key regional and rural issues for Medical Deans and press the need to finalise the expressions of interest process for the Regional Training Hubs as soon as possible. My visits to schools continue with recent visits to the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney. I find these very valuable and they provide a better understanding of key issues for individual schools. I will continue to follow up with schools to schedule further visits and I look to seeing everyone at Annual Conference.

**Carmel Tebbutt**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

The seventh biennial Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network LIME Connection will be held in Melbourne, Australia from 4-7 April 2017 at Etihad Stadium. The event will be co hosted by Deakin University, Monash University and the University of Melbourne.

<http://www.limenetwork.net.au/conference/lime-connection-vii>



**THE LIMENETWORK**  
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

# LIME CONNECTION VII

4-7 April 2017 | Melbourne, Australia

[www.limenetwork.net.au](http://www.limenetwork.net.au)

## International Recognition for Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education Network



Medical Deans President, Professor Nicholas Glasgow and LIME Reference Group receiving ASPIRE Award in Barcelona

The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network has received a prestigious international award - the ASPIRE Award for Excellence in Social Accountability. The Aspire Award is developed under the auspices of the Association for Medical Education in Europe, the leading international association for medical education.

Professor Nicholas Glasgow, President of Medical Deans congratulated the LIME Network: 'This is a great achievement for LIME Network members, particularly the LIME Reference Group and secretariat. It is a tribute to the innovation evident in the field of Indigenous health and medical education made possible through their collaborative work.'

### Recent Reports and Submissions on our Website

#### Driving Innovation, Fairness and Excellence in Australian Higher Education

This discussion paper was released by the Australian Government with the Budget. Medical Deans have made a submission that addresses in particular the recommendation seeking the views of the sector on the relativities between disciplines of funding clusters.

The link is here: <http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Higher-Education-Funding-Submission-2016.pdf>

#### Medical Deans Student Statistics

The 2015 Student Statistics are now available on the Medical Deans website. These statistics are collected annually from all member universities on medical student numbers and demographics and are a valuable source of information for both members and stakeholders. The link is here: <http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/statistics/annualtables/>

### National Intern Work Readiness Forum

Medical Deans will co host a forum with the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC) on Intern Work Readiness on 28 September at the Park Royal Airport Hotel Melbourne.

The Review of Medical Intern Training released last year made a range of recommendations including that the internship should have entry requirements that reflect agreed and defined expectations of work readiness that a graduate must meet before commencing.

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) has requested that the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC) provides advice on a number of the recommendations, prior to final consideration by Health Ministers.

A Sub-Committee jointly chaired by Medical Deans and HWPC has been established to further examine work readiness, including identifying options for assessing work readiness and the costs associated with doing so.

The forum will further inform the work of the sub committee and schools have been invited to send representatives to the forum. Medical Deans has also been collating information on schools current activities with pre internship terms. Thank you to all schools who have provided advice and completed the survey. This process is an important opportunity for Medical Deans to have input into an issue of significant importance and further information will provided to members after the forum.



## Medical Deans Annual Conference October 12-14, 2016, Wollongong

**Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand** is holding its 2016 Annual Conference with this year's host **University of Wollongong** from **October 12-14, 2016** at the **Novotel Wollongong North Beach Hotel**.

There is a comprehensive program which includes a half day Indigenous Knowledge Initiative.

The **Faculty Managers** and **Executive Committee** satellite meetings are being held on **Wednesday 12 October, 2016**.

The Conference Dinner is being held on the evening of **Thursday 13 October** at the **Harbourfront restaurant** in Wollongong.

### Key Dates:

<b>Wednesday 12 October 2016:</b>	Indigenous Knowledge Initiative Faculty Managers meeting Faculty Managers Dinner
<b>Thursday 13 October 2016:</b>	Conference Conference Dinner - Guest Speaker - Mr Robyn Williams Science Journalist and Broadcaster
<b>Friday 14 October 2016:</b>	Conference

### Assessment Benchmarking Projects

Medical Deans are currently involved in two assessment benchmarking projects, both overseen by the Medical Education Collaboration Committee chaired by Professor Ian Symonds. Here is a brief description of the two projects for the information of members:

#### Collaborative Benchmarking Project with the AMC

Medical Deans participate in a project with the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to use the AMC calibrated Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) item bank to source material for further benchmarking tests. Participating schools are provided with access to the over 5000 items in the bank and the AMC is provided with de identified IRT data on item difficulty to be used to recalibrate the standard of the AMC MCQ examinations. There are also ten common Internal Medicine items that participating schools will use.

Contact for this project is Dan Dumbrell on [ddumbrell@medicaldeans.org.au](mailto:ddumbrell@medicaldeans.org.au) should you need any assistance.

#### MDANZ Assessment Benchmarking Project

The MDANZ Benchmarking Project is co ordinated by Professor Leo Davies. It is in its fourth year, and involves the implementation of an annual 60-question discipline-specific module to participating medical schools. Academics from these schools are consulted to provide and review items for each annual module, which is then finalized and approved prior to implementation. In 2016 this module will be in the discipline of Surgery, whilst 2017 will focus on Psychiatry.

Contact for this project is Leo Davies [leo.davies@sydney.edu.au](mailto:leo.davies@sydney.edu.au) should you need further any assistance.