

MEDICAL SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS

Patient partnerships a key aspect of Social Accountability

10th October, 2018

All too often, health services are designed by expert groups... except they are often not the people who will use them. Patient co-design is a core principle of patient-centred care, which has been shown to improve people's access to care, patients' experiences of care, and very often their health outcomes. When designing mental health services, the false assumptions and mistaken beliefs about the capabilities of people with mental health problems can exacerbate this issue and make it even harder for their voices to be heard.

On this 10th October **World Mental Health Day**, we'd like to share with you a [story](#) from one of our member Medical Schools – Australian National University – about the work of Dr Brett Scholz on the value patients bring to advising providers and developing services, and the role consumers play in leadership teams.

Medical schools are responsible for producing the next generation of medical graduates relevant and responsive to society's needs. Active, durable and impactful partnerships with patients, consumers and communities is key to this principle of **social accountability in medical education**, as is research and advocacy for changes to our health system that improve patient access to the care that's right for them.

Read more about the work of [Medical Deans' Social Accountability Committee](#).