



# Student Statistics Report: 2017 – 2018

## SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

---

### Australia

In 2018 3,822 students commenced studying medicine at an Australian medical school; 31 fewer than in 2017 (a 0.01% decrease). Medical student numbers are expected to remain stable in the coming years, with predictions that commencements for 2019 will be down slightly at 3,799.

There were 40 fewer domestic commencing students in 2018. They comprise 83% of the cohort, of which 9.5% are full fee paying (up from 7.6% in 2017, 7.4% in 2016 and 7.2% in 2015). The proportion of international students grew slightly to 17% from 16.7% in 2017.

The number of Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) dropped by just under 100, primarily within the non-bonded places. 26.5% of domestic medical students are in a bonded scheme (to work in areas of workforce shortage) which is up slightly from 25.1% last year.

The gender balance remains slightly in favour of females for all entry schemes, at 53% of commencing medical students, marginally higher than 2017's 51.9%.

3,475 medical students graduated from Australian medical schools in 2017, of which 87% were domestic graduates. The number of international graduates (45) was the lowest since this report started in 2010. 25.2% of 2017 Australian graduates were in bonded schemes.

Australia is predicted to graduate approximately 3,609 students in 2018.

### New Zealand

584 medical students commenced study at New Zealand medical schools in 2018; 10 more than the previous year. Commencing numbers have been steady for the last 4 years, and are expected to remain so with a very slight drop in commencements expected next year. After two years of lower international student numbers, the 2018 figure (38) returned to its previous norm.

In New Zealand in 2018, 58% of medical students were female, unchanged from 2017.

New Zealand medical schools graduated 476 doctors in 2017 (12 fewer than in 2016), of which 456 were domestic students.

They are expected to graduate 528 doctors in 2018.

## **Indigenous students and graduates**

2018 has seen the highest number of commencing Indigenous students in both Australia and New Zealand.

In Australia 88 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students started studying medicine, which is 2.8% of domestic commencing students (12.8% growth from 2017 numbers). In New Zealand 106 commencing medical students were Māori, comprising 19.4% of the commencing domestic cohort (176% in 2017).

A total of 310 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were enrolled in an Australian medical school in 2018; 2.2% of domestic enrolments. There has been an overall increase in the past 5 years, with 275 total enrolments (1.9% of domestic enrolments) in 2014.

In New Zealand, 422 Māori students were enrolled, comprising 15.9% of enrolled domestic students. This has increased from the 295 enrolled Māori students in 2014 (12.6% of domestic enrolments across New Zealand medical schools).

For any enquiries, please contact Medical Deans at:

E: [admin@medicaldeans.org.au](mailto:admin@medicaldeans.org.au)

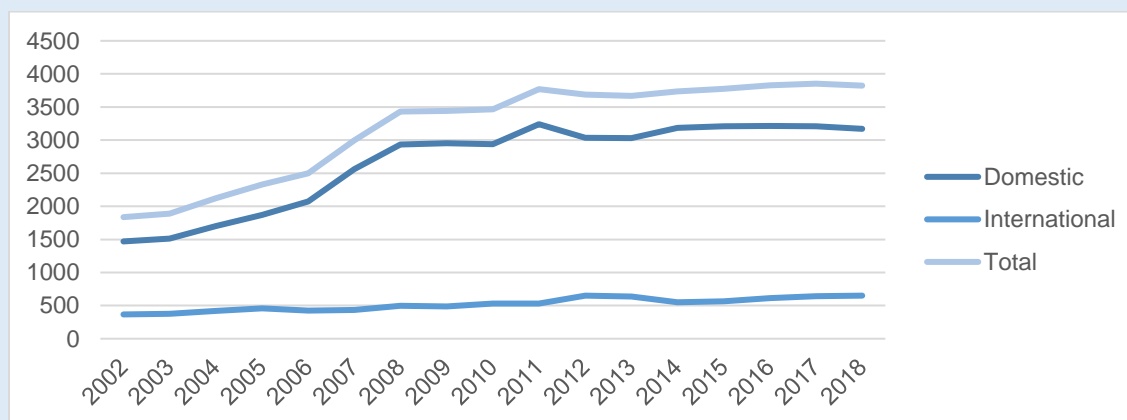
P: +61 2 8084 6557.

## Commencements

In 2018 there were 3,822 commencing medical students in **Australia**, comprising 3,171 domestic and 651 international students (Table 1). Following the period of rapid growth from 2006, the numbers started to plateau in 2011 and are expected to remain stable in the coming years, with 3,799 predicted commencements in 2019.

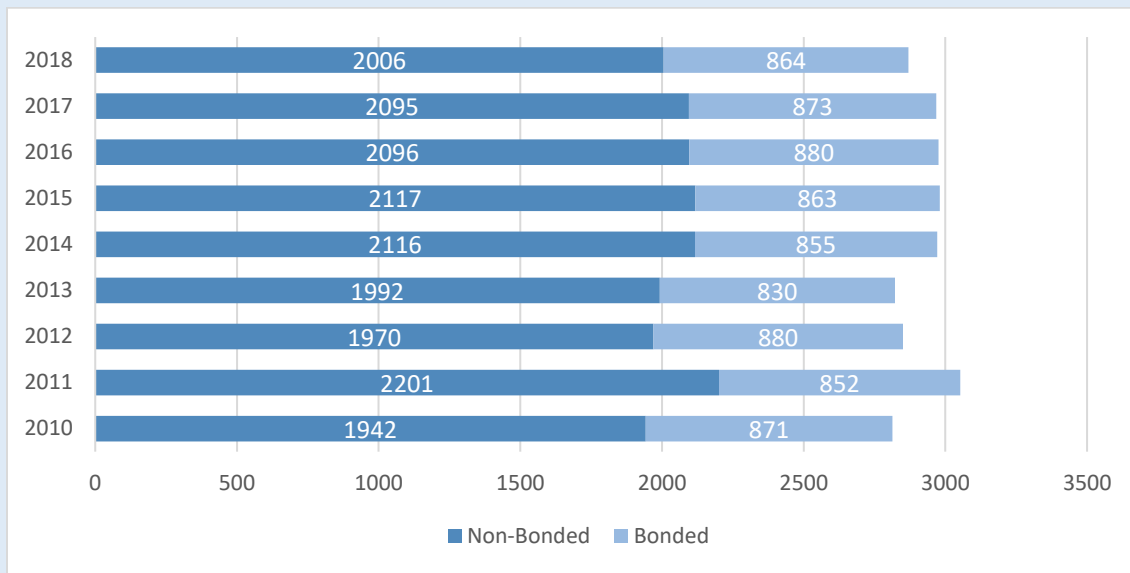
**Table 1. Commencing Australian medical students numbers by year**

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
AUS	Domestic	2940	3241	3035	3032	3185	3210	3210	3211	3171	3106
	International	529	529	651	636	552	567	613	642	651	693
	<b>TOTAL AUS</b>	<b>3469</b>	<b>3770</b>	<b>3686</b>	<b>3668</b>	<b>3737</b>	<b>3777</b>	<b>3828</b>	<b>3853</b>	<b>3822</b>	<b>3799</b>



**Figure 1. Australian Medical School Commencement Numbers**

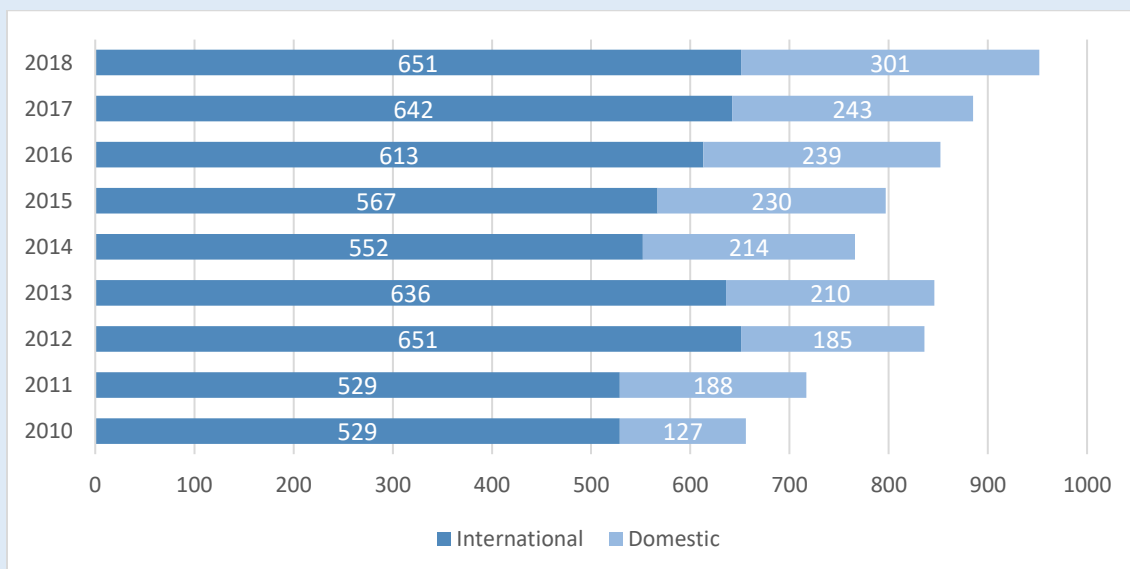
In Australia, 2018 saw a decrease in non-bonded Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) and a few less bonded CSPs (Figure 2). 26.5% of 2018 commencing domestic students were in the Commonwealth's Bonded Medical Program (BMP) scheme, in which the participant accepts a CSP and agrees to work in an area of workforce shortage for a period of time. This is slightly higher than 2017, when it was 25.1%.



**Figure 2. Australian Medical School commencements by Commonwealth-Supported Places (CSP)**

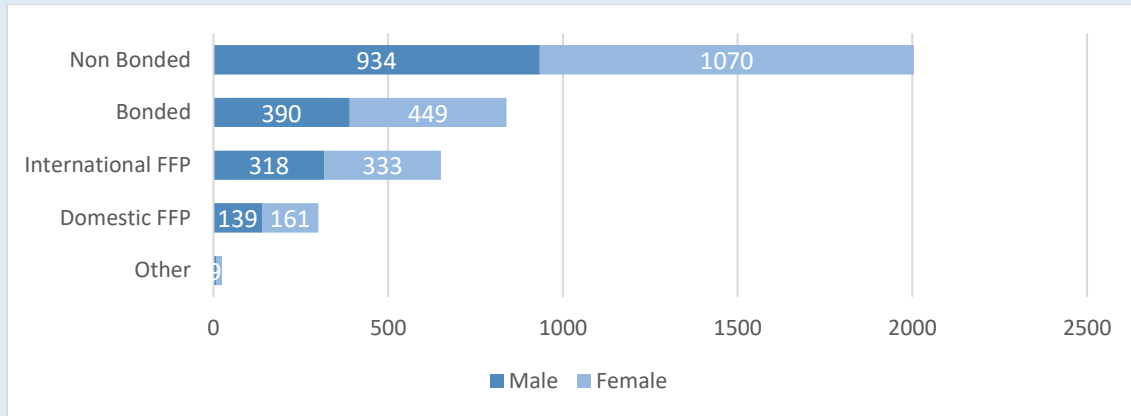
*Note: the Bonded numbers include those in the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP), who do not fall under the BMP or MRBS schemes*

Across medical schools in Australia, 9.5% of domestic commencing students were full fee paying (FFP) (Figure 3), an increase from 7.6% in 2017 and 7.4% in 2016. This can be attributed primarily to the first commencing cohort of Macquarie University’s new medical program. The proportion of commencing international students compared to total commencing students has also increased gradually over the past five years, from 14.8% in 2014 to 17.0% in 2018.



**Figure 3. Australian Medical School commencements by Full Fee Paying (FFP) Places**

The 53% of commencing students in medical schools in Australia were female, slightly higher than the 51.9% for the previous year. The gender balance is similar in each entry scheme (Figure 4).



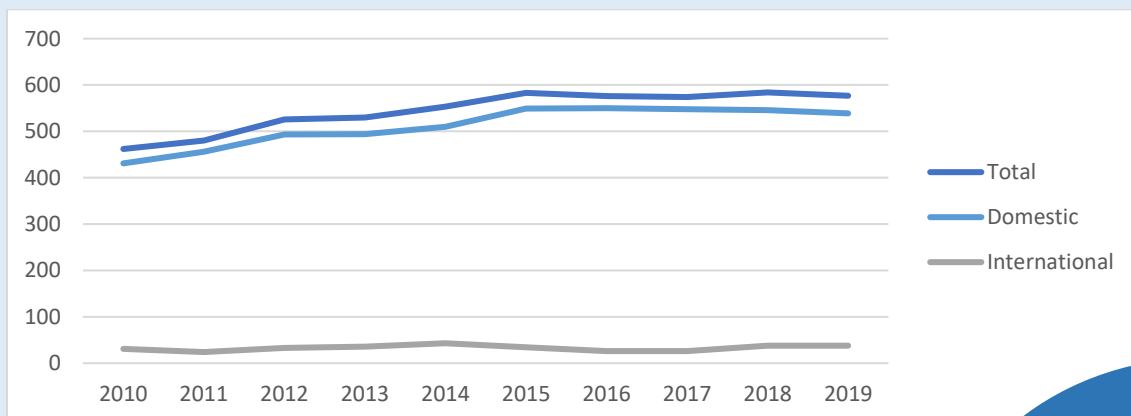
**Figure 4. Australian Medical School commencements by gender and entry scheme in 2018**

*Note: a few commencing students identified as indeterminate/intersex/unspecified, however are not included in Figure 6 due to low numbers.*

In **New Zealand** there were 539 domestic and 38 international commencing medical students in 2018 (Table 2). After a gradual increase of total commencements from 2010 to 2015, numbers have plateaued with a projection of 577 commencements in 2019 (Figure 5).

**Table 2. Commencing New Zealand medical students numbers by year**

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NZ	Domestic	431	456	493	494	510	549	550	548	546	539
	International	31	24	33	36	43	34	26	26	38	38
	<b>TOTAL NZ</b>	462	480	526	530	553	583	576	574	584	577



**Figure 5. New Zealand Medical School Commencement Numbers**

In 2018, 58% of NZ commencing medical students were female compared with 53% in Australia

## Indigenous commencing students

In 2018 there were 88 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in year one of medicine, which is 2.8% of domestic commencing Australian medical students and a 12.8% increase from 2017. In New Zealand there were 106, or 19.4%, commencing Māori medical students (Figure 6).

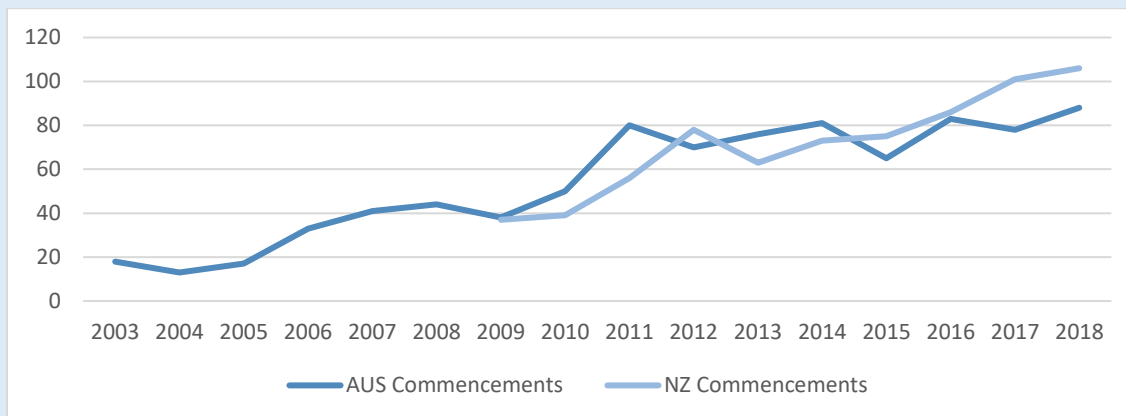


Figure 6. Indigenous Medical School Commencements in Australian and New Zealand Medical Schools

## Total Enrolments

Table 3 shows the number of total enrolments across **Australian** medical schools from 2010 to 2018. In 2018 there were a total of 17,052 students enrolled comprising 14,284 domestic and 2,768 international students. The breakdown of student numbers across cohort years are illustrated in Figure 7.

Table 3. Enrolled Australian medical students numbers by year

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AUS	Domestic	12,946	13,956	14,177	14,266	14,384	14,424	14,498	14,388	14,284
	International	2,451	2,535	2,691	2,727	2,483	2,535	2,580	2,668	2,768
	<b>TOTAL AUS</b>	<b>15,397</b>	<b>16,491</b>	<b>16,868</b>	<b>16,993</b>	<b>16,867</b>	<b>16,959</b>	<b>17,078</b>	<b>17,056</b>	<b>17,052</b>

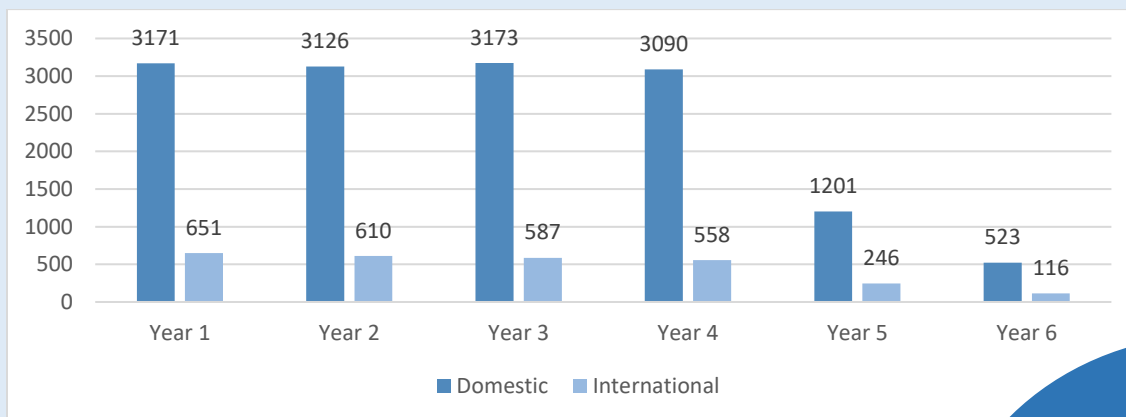
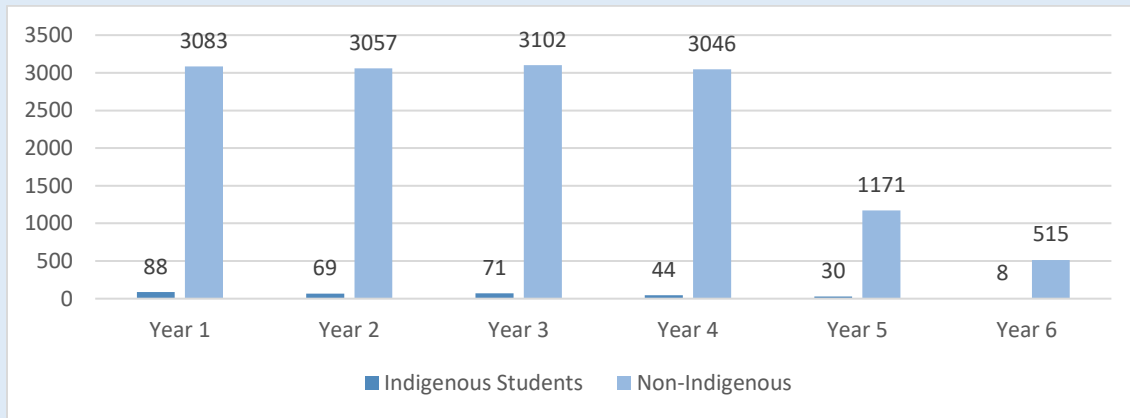


Figure 7. Australian medical student enrolments, by year of course in 2018

2018 has seen the highest numbers of commencing Indigenous medical students

In 2018 a total of 310 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** students were studying medicine in **Australia**, which is 2.2% of total Australian domestic student enrolments (Figure 8).

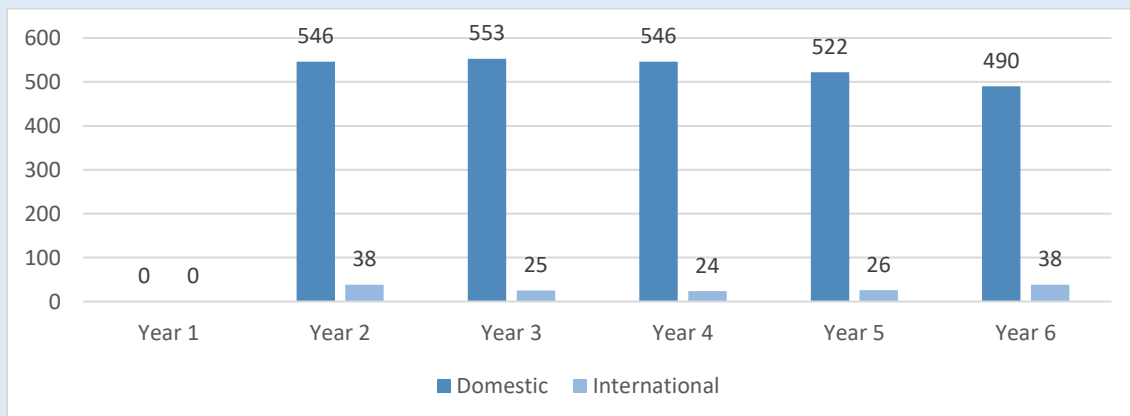


**Figure 8. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical student enrolments in Australia compared to non-Indigenous domestic enrolments, by year of course in 2018**

In **New Zealand** medical schools in 2018 there were 2,808 total enrolments, comprising 2,657 domestic and 151 international students (Table 4). The breakdown of these numbers across cohort years is illustrated in Figure 9.

**Table 4. Enrolled New Zealand medical students numbers by year**

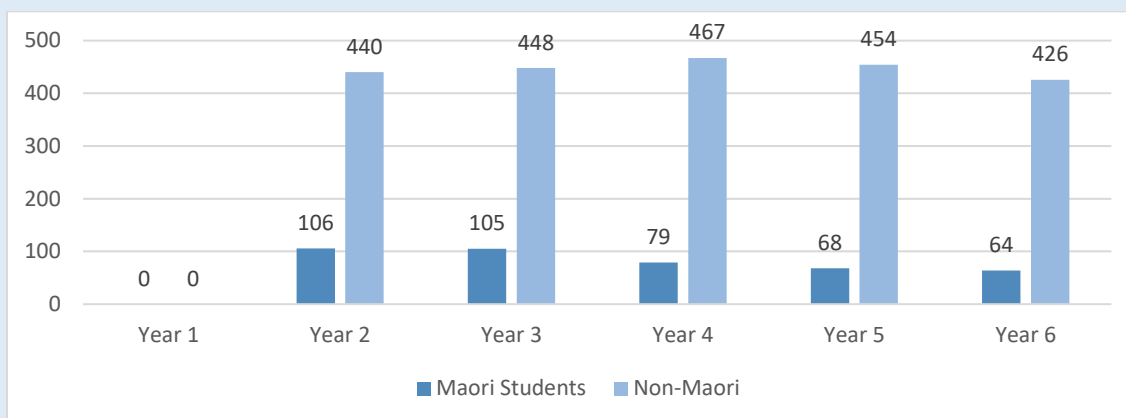
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NZ	Domestic	1,810	1,944	2,071	2,220	2,335	2,442	2,548	2,578	2,657
	International	297	265	224	188	167	163	155	143	151
	<b>TOTAL NZ</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>2,295</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>2,808</b>



**Figure 9. New Zealand medical student enrolments, by year of course in 2018**

*Note: all New Zealand students commence studying medicine in Year 2, as the first year is a foundation year in a Biomedical or Health Sciences course.*

In 2018, there were 422 **Māori** students enrolled in **New Zealand** medical schools (Figure 10). This was 15.9% of enrolled domestic New Zealand students.



**Figure 10. Māori medical student enrolments compared to non-Indigenous New Zealand domestic enrolments, by year of course in 2018**

## Graduates

3,475 medical students graduated from **Australian** medical schools in 2017; of which 3,025 were domestic and 450 international graduates (Table 5 and Figure 11).

As for last year, the largest cohort (28.3%) graduated from NSW/ACT medical schools. In 2018 this was followed by QLD (23.4%) and VIC (23.2%).

**Table 5. Graduating Australian medical student numbers by year**

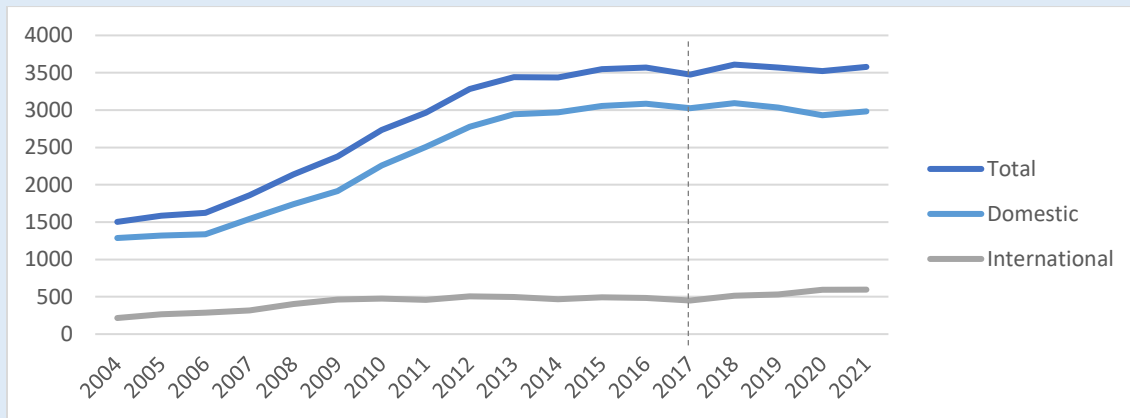
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Domestic</b>	2259	2507	2777	2944	2968	3055	3085	3025
<b>International</b>	474	457	504	497	469	492	484	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>2733</b>	<b>2964</b>	<b>3281</b>	<b>3441</b>	<b>3437</b>	<b>3547</b>	<b>3569</b>	<b>3475</b>

The number of graduates for 2018 through to 2021 cannot be accurately estimated as it is dependent on the rate of attrition. Based on recent attrition rates for the different medical schools years, it is estimated that graduation figures for 2018 onwards are likely to be around:

- 2018** 3,609 *estimated*
- 2019** 3,568 *estimated*
- 2020** 3,523 *estimated*
- 2021** 3,578 *estimated*



As with the growth in commencing students, the numbers of graduating student has started to plateau and is expected to remain fairly stable in the coming years (Figure 11).

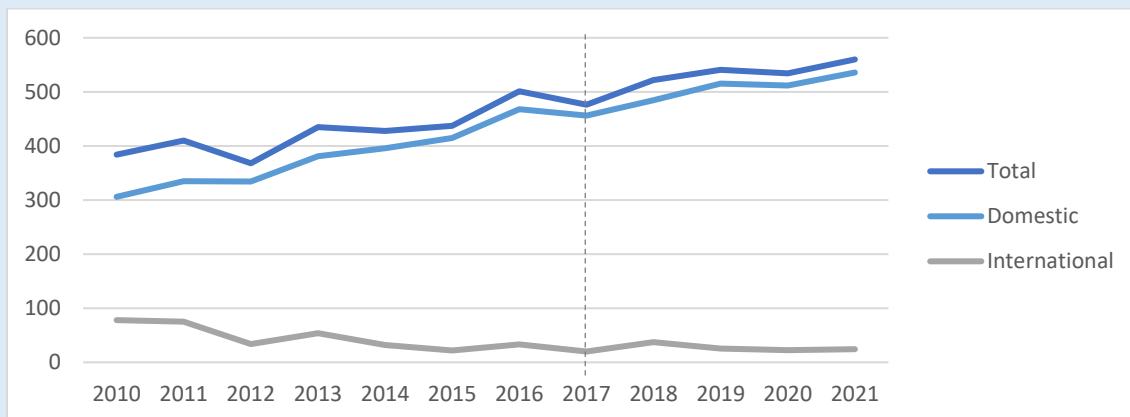


**Figure 11. Trend of graduating Australian medical students by year (predicted for 2018 onwards)**

There were a total of 476 graduates from **New Zealand** medical schools in 2017 (Table 6).

**Table 6. Graduating New Zealand medical student numbers by year (predicted from 2018 onwards)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Domestic</b>	306	335	334	381	396	415	468	456
<b>International</b>	78	75	34	54	32	22	33	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>476</b>



**Figure 12. Trend of graduating New Zealand medical students by year (predicted for 2018 onwards)**

Based on recent attrition rates across New Zealand medical schools, it can be estimated the graduate numbers for 2018 onwards will likely be in the region of:

- 2018** 522 *estimated*
- 2019** 541 *estimated*
- 2020** 534 *estimated*
- 2021** 560 *estimated*

NZ graduate numbers  
are projected to  
gradually increase over  
the next few years

## Indigenous graduating students

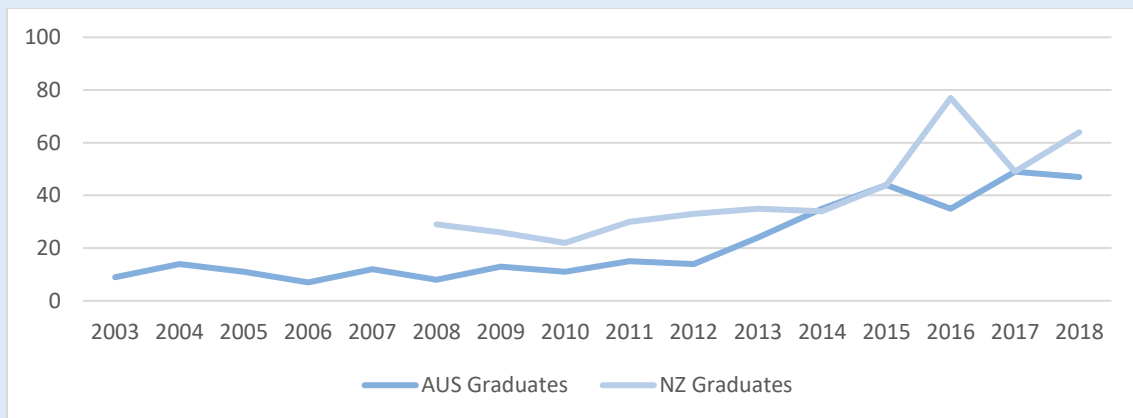
In 2017, 49 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors graduated from medical programs in Australia, an increase of 104% over the last 5 years (Table 7).

49 Māori doctors also graduated from New Zealand schools in 2017.

**Table 7. Graduating Indigenous Medical Students by Year (predicted for 2018)**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>AUS</b>	7	12	8	13	11	15	14	24	35	44	35	49	47
<b>NZ</b>			29	26	22	30	33	35	34	44	77	49	64

The trend of graduating Indigenous doctors across both countries over time can be seen in Figure 12.



**Figure 13. Trend of graduating Indigenous students from Australian and New Zealand medical schools**

2017 saw the largest number of graduating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors from Australian medical schools

## BACKGROUND

---

Medical Deans is responsible for the collection of annual student statistics from medical schools across Australia and New Zealand. The collected statistics are stored and managed by Medical Deans, and is a national source of comprehensive Trans-Tasman medical school student data.

These student statistics are used by Medical Deans to provide our members with collated snapshot and trend information regarding enrolments, commencements, graduates, international, and indigenous student numbers.

The data collected each year is published on the Medical Deans website, and is also provided to the Australian Department of Health for the Medical Education and Training (MET) dataset.

Data and snapshot reports from previous years are available from the Medical Deans' website at <https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/student-statistics-reports/>

User-friendly access to the student statistics data is also available, with the data able to be queried and exported <https://medicaldeans.org.au/data/>