

Student Statistics Report: 2019 – 2020

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Australia

At the end of 2019, 3,655 medical students **graduated** from Australian medical schools, slightly fewer than the previous year. 85% were domestic students. The number of international graduates rose by 8% on the previous year, to 537.

In 2020, 3,845 students **commenced** studying medicine at an Australian medical school; 1.8% less than in 2019. The number of medical students is expected to remain relatively stable in the coming years, with projections that commencements in 2021 will be around 3,900.

There were 66 fewer commencing domestic students in 2020 than the previous year. They comprise 84% of the cohort, and 9.6% of these are full fee paying which is a similar proportion to 2019. The proportion of international commencing students was stable, up 0.2% to 16.3%.

In total there were 2,908 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) commencing this year, the same as in 2019. There were 43 more bonded places (to work in areas of workforce shortage) balanced by 43 fewer non-bonded places. Domestic medical students in a bonded scheme made up 26.9% of the total domestic commencements, compared with 25% in 2019.

The gender balance remains slightly in favour of females for all entry schemes with the exception of bonded places (where it was 48.7%). Overall, females comprised 51.3% of commencing medical students, which is marginally lower than the 52% in 2019.

There are 3,873 students enrolled **in their final year** of medical school. Applying a final-year attrition rate similar to that seen in recent years (2.9%) it is anticipated that around 3,761 will graduate at the end of 2020.

New Zealand

In 2019, New Zealand medical schools **graduated** 525 doctors, 2 more than in 2018, of which 504 were domestic students.

This year 584 medical students **commenced** study at New Zealand medical schools; the same number as last year. Commencing numbers have been steady for the last 5 years, and are expected to remain so

with it being projected that 582 students will commence next year. There has been a slight fall in international student numbers this year, to 35.

In New Zealand in 2020, 59.4% of commencing domestic medical students were female, basically unchanged from 2019.

557 medical students are **in their final year**. Based on the average of the last 4 years' final-year attrition rates (1.6%) at New Zealand medical schools, 548 are anticipated to graduate in 2020.

Indigenous students and graduates

In 2019, 46 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors **graduated** from medical programs in Australia, and in New Zealand 65 Māori doctors graduated. Across Australia and New Zealand there has been a 61% increase in the number of Indigenous graduates from five years ago.

In Australia this year, 121 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students **commenced** studying medicine in Australia, which is 3.8% of domestic commencing students and just over a 6% growth from 2019 numbers.

In New Zealand 112 commencing medical students are Māori, comprising 20.6% of the commencing domestic cohort – an increase of 20% from 2019.

Both these numbers are the highest since figures were first collected in 2009.

A total of 404 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are **enrolled** in an Australian medical school in 2020; 2.7% of domestic enrolments. There has been consistent growth in these figures, from 286 enrolments five years ago which was 2.0% of domestic enrolments.

In New Zealand, 476 Māori students are enrolled, comprising 17.6% of domestic students. This has increased from the 368 Māori students in 2017, which was 13.3% of domestic enrolments across New Zealand medical schools.

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2019 Graduates

Australia

3,655 medical students graduated from Australian medical schools in 2019, of which 3,118 (85%) were domestic and 537 (15%) international students. In 2019, the largest cohort (32.4%) graduated from NSW/ACT medical schools, followed by Victoria (25.1%) and Queensland (23.0%).

Table 1. Graduating Australian medical student numbers

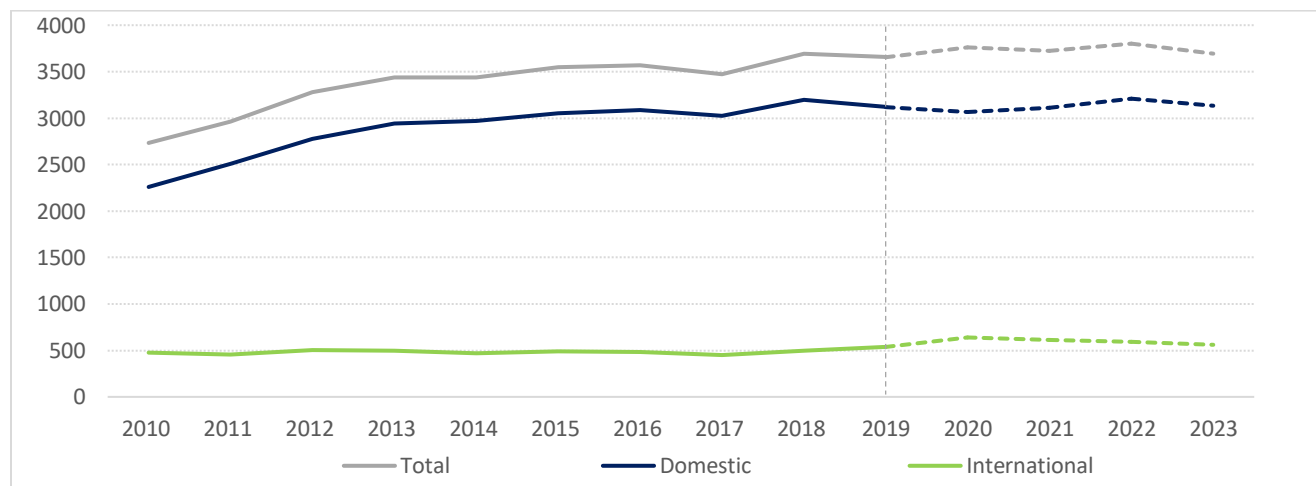
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Domestic	2,259	2,507	2,777	2,944	2,968	3,055	3,085	3,025	3,197	3,118
International	474	457	504	497	469	492	484	450	496	537
Total AUS	2,733	2,964	3,281	3,441	3,437	3,547	3,569	3,475	3,693	3,655

The number of future graduates cannot be accurately estimated as it depends on the rate of attrition for each year, which can vary widely. We have therefore calculated estimates for future years by applying a *single* reduction of 2.9% to the number of students currently enrolled in the years that will be graduating 2020 to 2023; 2.9% being the average of the last four years' final-year attrition rate of all Australian medical schools. *Note: no attrition for the years leading up to the final year has been applied.*

Graduating Year	Students enrolled in cohorts graduating that year	Students estimated to graduate (after applying <i>single</i> reduction of 2.9%)
2020	3,873	3,761 <i>estimated</i>
2021	3,835	3,724 <i>estimated</i>
2022	3,915	3,801 <i>estimated</i>
2023	3,804	3,694 <i>estimated</i>

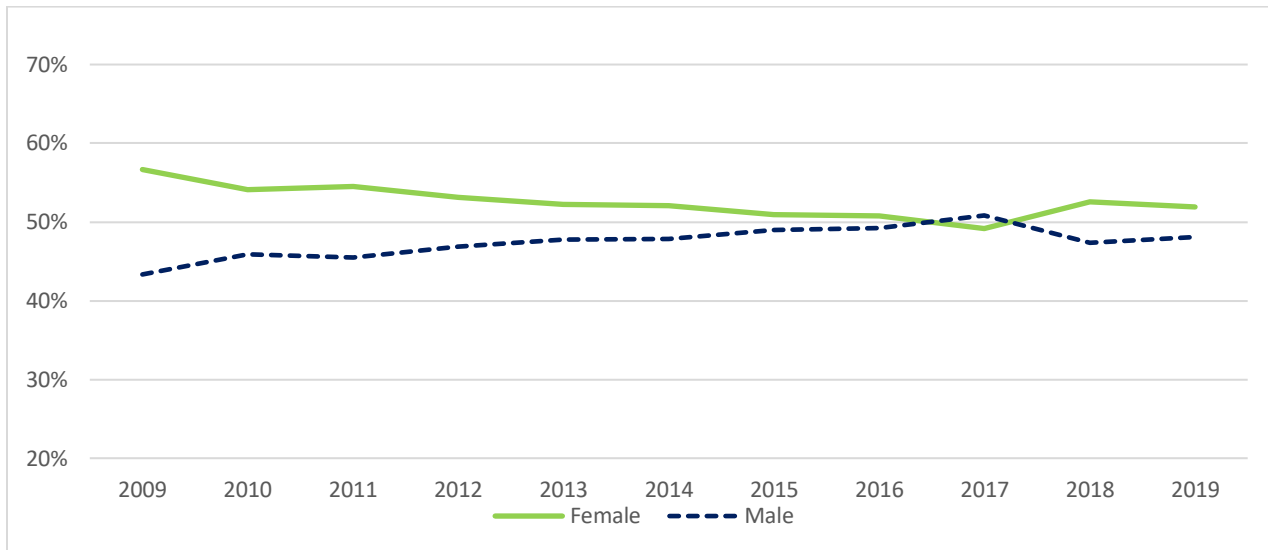
Following the slowed growth in commencing students, the numbers of graduating students has started to plateau and is expected to remain fairly stable in the coming years.

Figure 1. Graduating Australian medical students by year (projected for 2020 onwards)



* Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2021

Figure 2. All Australian medical school graduates – by gender



Note: These figures do not include the small number of students who identified as indeterminate / intersex / unspecified

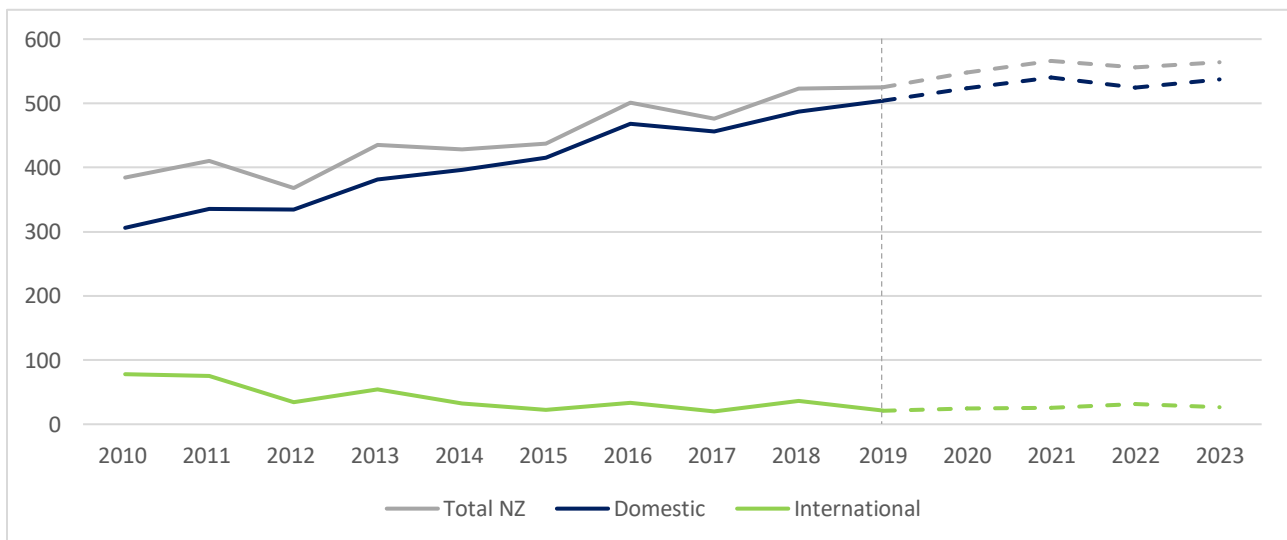
New Zealand

A total of 525 medical students graduated from New Zealand medical schools in 2019.

Table 2. Graduating New Zealand medical student numbers

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Domestic	306	335	334	381	396	415	468	456	487	504
International	78	75	34	54	32	22	33	20	36	21
Total NZ	384	410	368	435	428	437	501	476	523	525

Figure 3. Graduating New Zealand medical students

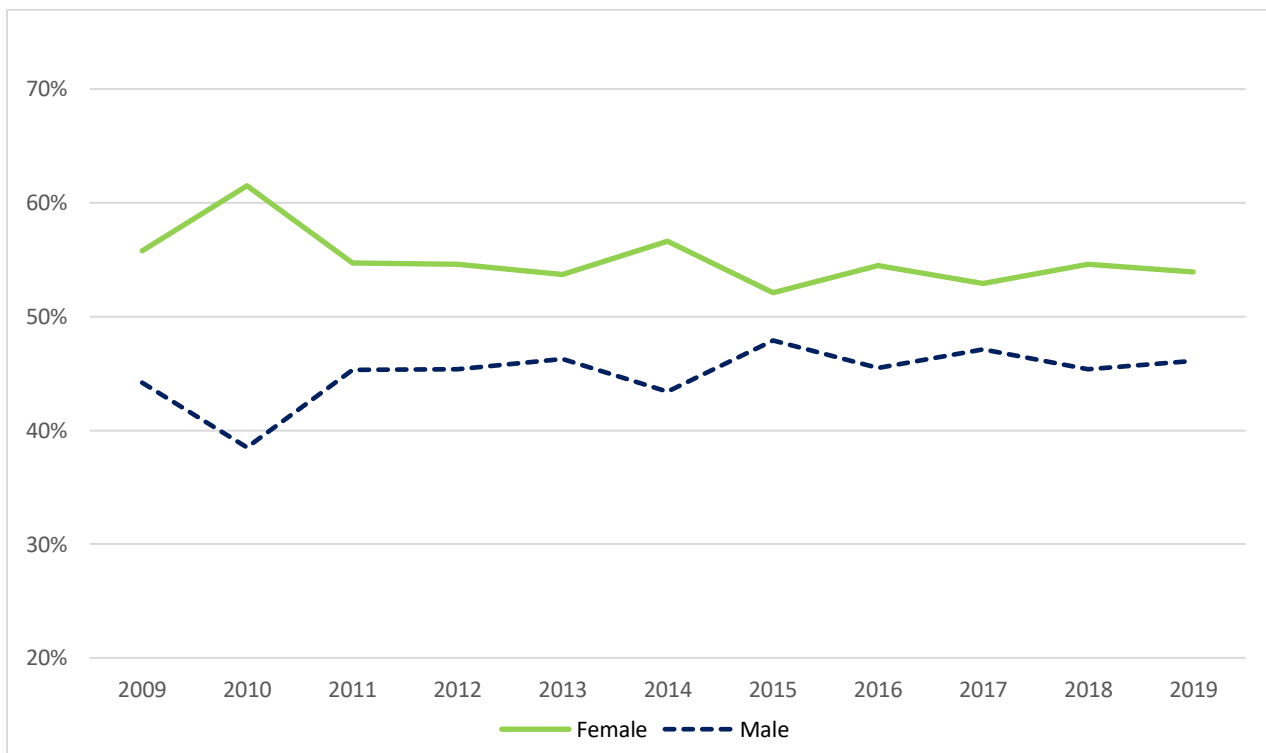


** Dashed lines indicate projected numbers*

The number of future graduates depends on the attrition rate for each year, which can vary widely. We have therefore estimated future graduate number by applying a *single* reduction of 1.6% to the number of students currently enrolled in the years that will be graduating 2020 to 2023; 1.6% being the average of the New Zealand schools’ final year attrition rate over the last four years. *Note: as for Australian estimates, no attrition for the years leading up to the final year has been applied.*

<u>Graduating Year</u>	<u>Students enrolled in cohorts graduating that year</u>	<u>Students estimated to graduate (after applying <i>single</i> reduction of 1.6%)</u>
2020	557	548 <i>estimated</i>
2021	575	566 <i>estimated</i>
2022	565	556 <i>estimated</i>
2023	573	564 <i>estimated</i>

Figure 4. All New Zealand medical school graduates – by gender



Indigenous graduating students

In 2019, 46 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors graduated from medical programs in Australia, and 65 Māori doctors graduated from New Zealand schools.

Table 3. Graduating Indigenous medical students – by year, projected for 2020

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
AUS	7	12	8	13	11	15	14	24	35	44	35	49	42	46
NZ	29	26	22	30	33	35	34	44	77	49	70	65

Figure 5. Graduating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Australian medical schools

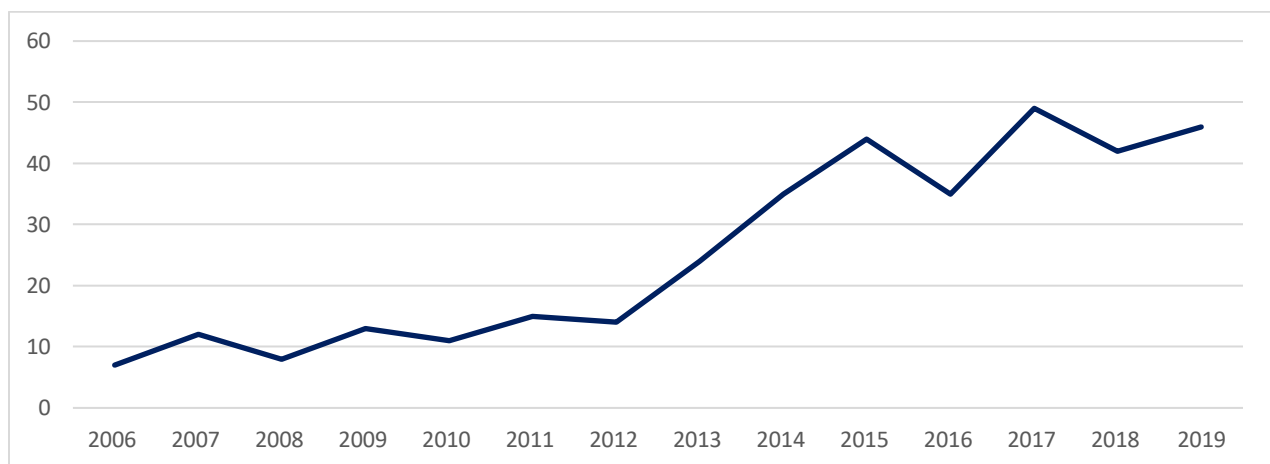
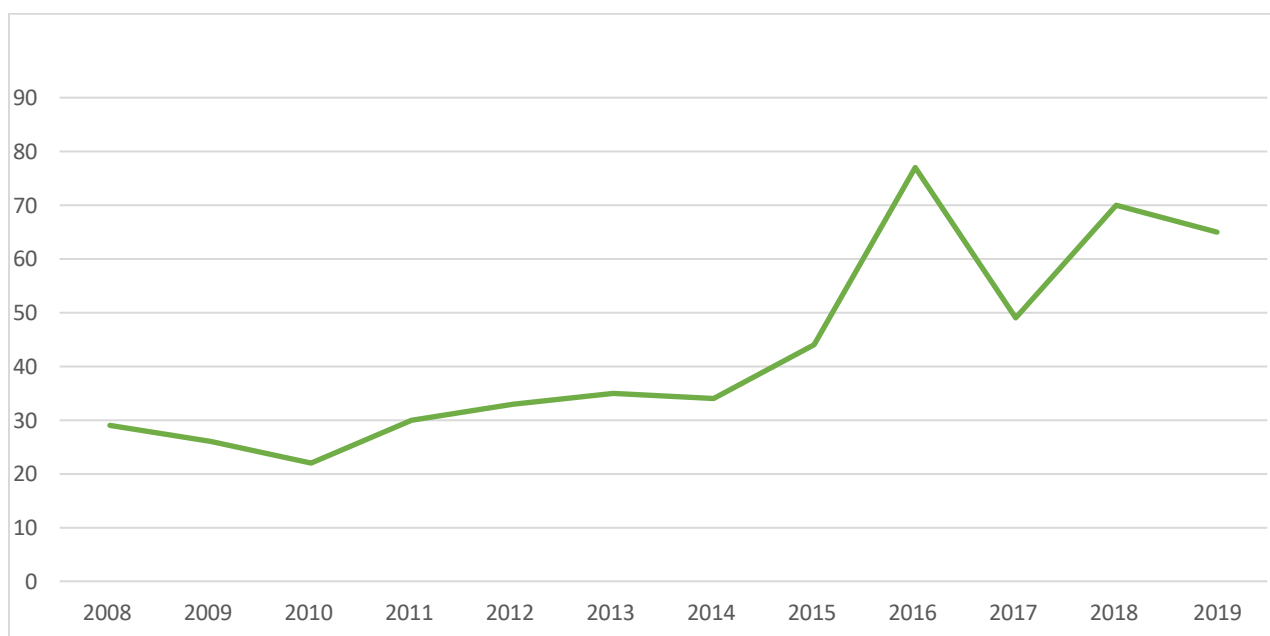


Figure 6. Graduating Māori students from New Zealand medical schools



2020 Commencements

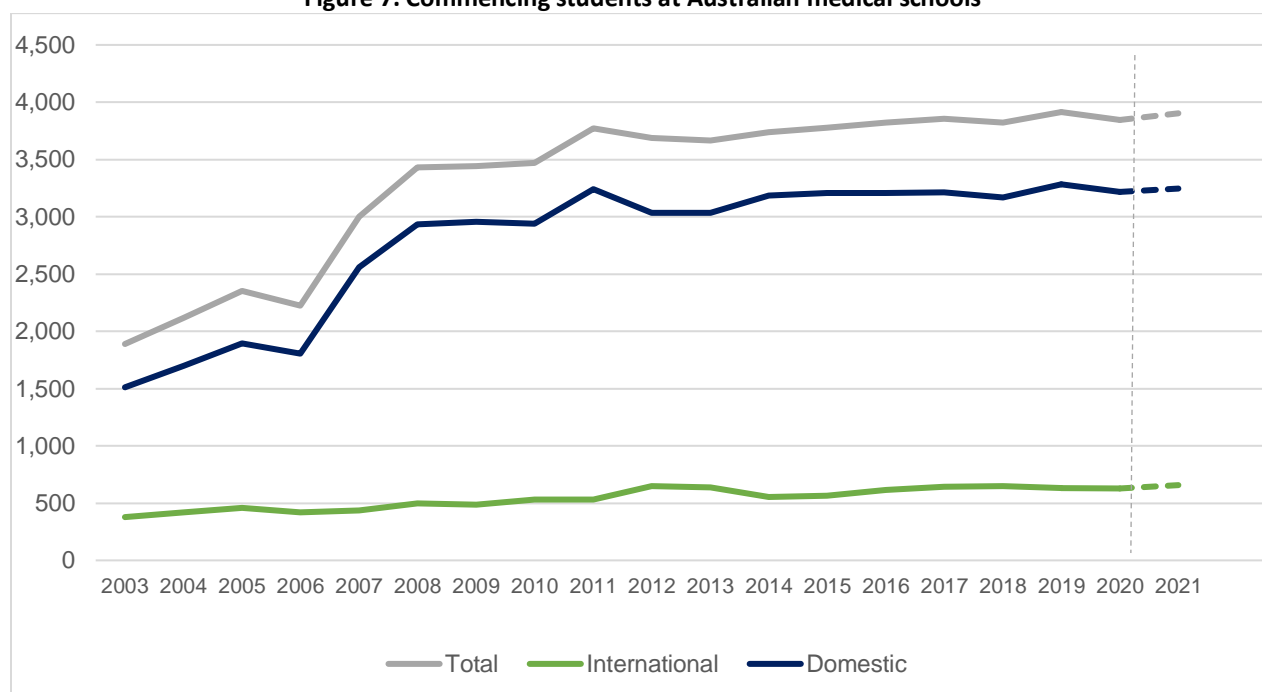
Australia

In 2020 there were 3,845 commencing medical students in Australia, comprising 3,217 domestic and 628 international students (Table 4). Following the period of rapid growth from 2007, the numbers started to plateau in 2011 and are expected to remain stable in the coming years, with 3,903 projected commencements in 2021.

Table 4. Students commencing at Australian medical schools

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic students																		
1470	1511	1699	1892	1805	2562	2934	2955	2940	3241	3035	3032	3185	3210	3210	3211	3171	3283	3217
International students																		
367	378	421	460	417	436	499	487	529	529	651	636	552	567	613	642	651	631	628
Total students																		
1837	1889	2120	2352	2222	2998	3433	3442	3469	3770	3686	3668	3737	3777	3823	3853	3822	3914	3845

Figure 7. Commencing students at Australian medical schools



* Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2021

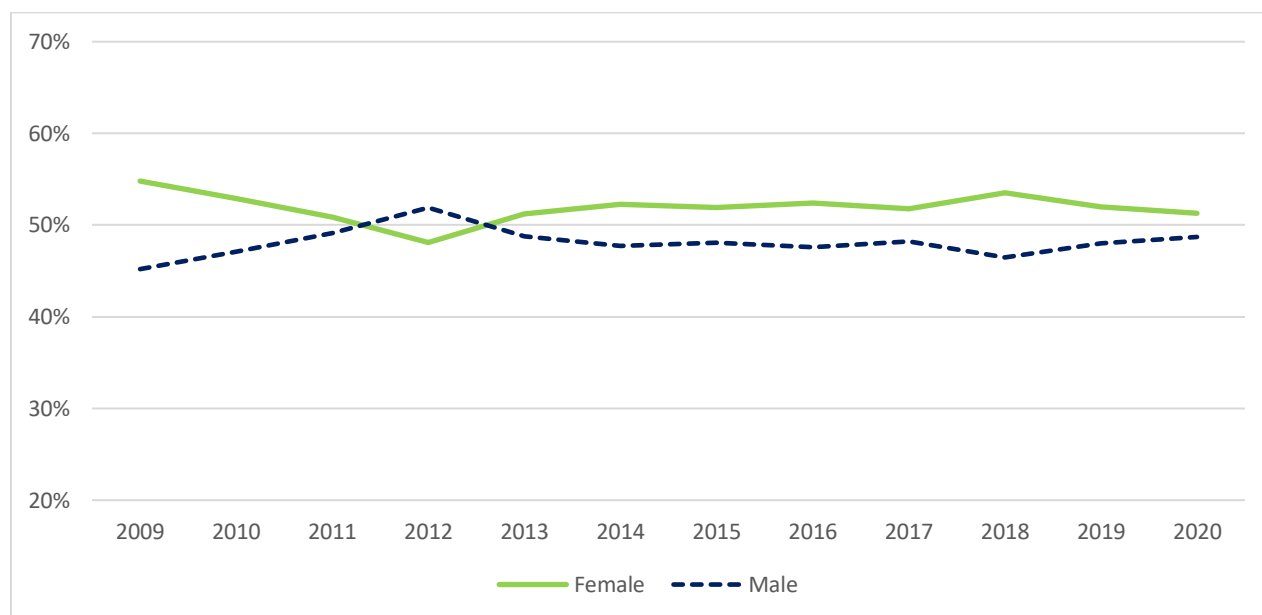
Australian medical school commencements have plateaued since the growth between 2006 and 2011

Gender

51.3% of commencing students in medical schools in Australia were female, marginally lower than the previous year. The gender balance is broadly similar in each entry scheme with the exception of bonded placements.

Note: a few students identified as indeterminate/intersex/unspecified, however are excluded from these tables and figures due to low numbers.

Figure 8. All commencements at Australian medical schools – by gender



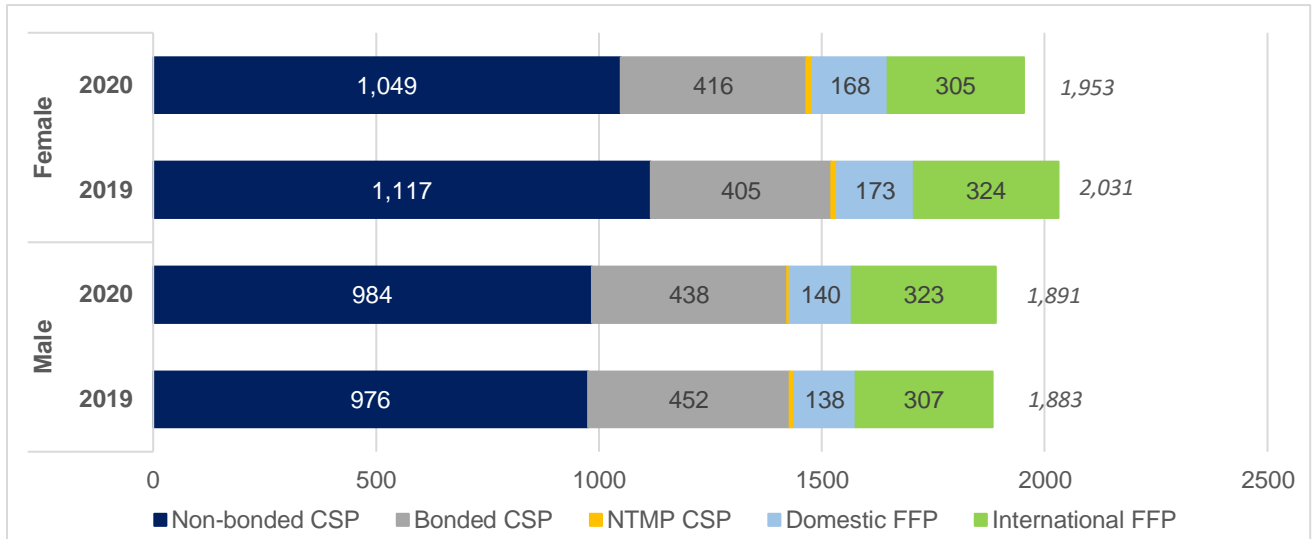
Note: These figures do not include the small number of students who identified as indeterminate / intersex / unspecified

Entry schemes

Table 5. Commencing students at Australian medical schools – by gender and entry scheme

	Non Bonded CSP		Bonded CSP		Other (NTMP) CSP		Domestic FFP		International FFP		TOTAL	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
2020	1,049	984	416	438	15	6	168	140	305	323	1,953	1,891
2019	1,117	976	405	452	12	10	173	138	324	307	2,031	1,883
2018	1,070	934	449	390	9	16	161	139	333	318	2,022	1,797

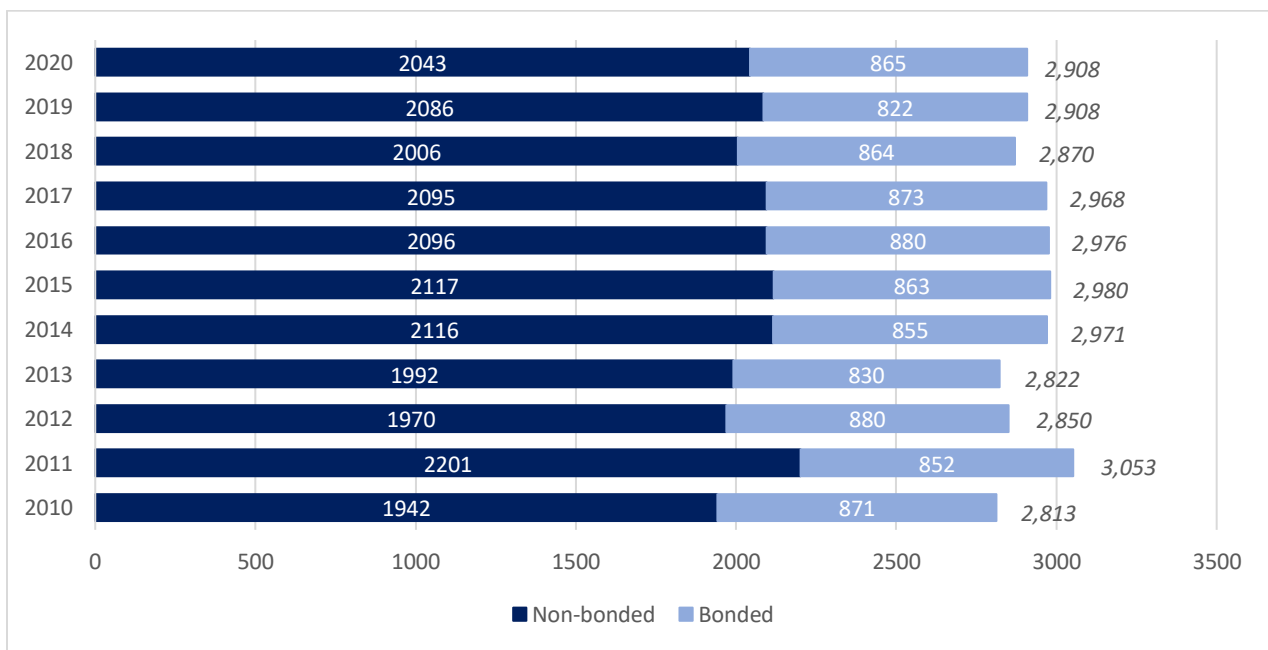
Figure 9. Australian medical school commencements – by gender and entry scheme in 2020



Commonwealth Supported Places

In Australia, the total number of commencing Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) remained at 2,908, however there has been a slight increase in the proportion of commencing domestic students in the Commonwealth’s Bonded schemes (in which the participant accepts a CSP and agrees to work in an area of workforce shortage for a period of time), to 26.9% from 25.0% last year.

Figure 10. Australian medical school commencements – by Commonwealth-Supported Places (CSPs)



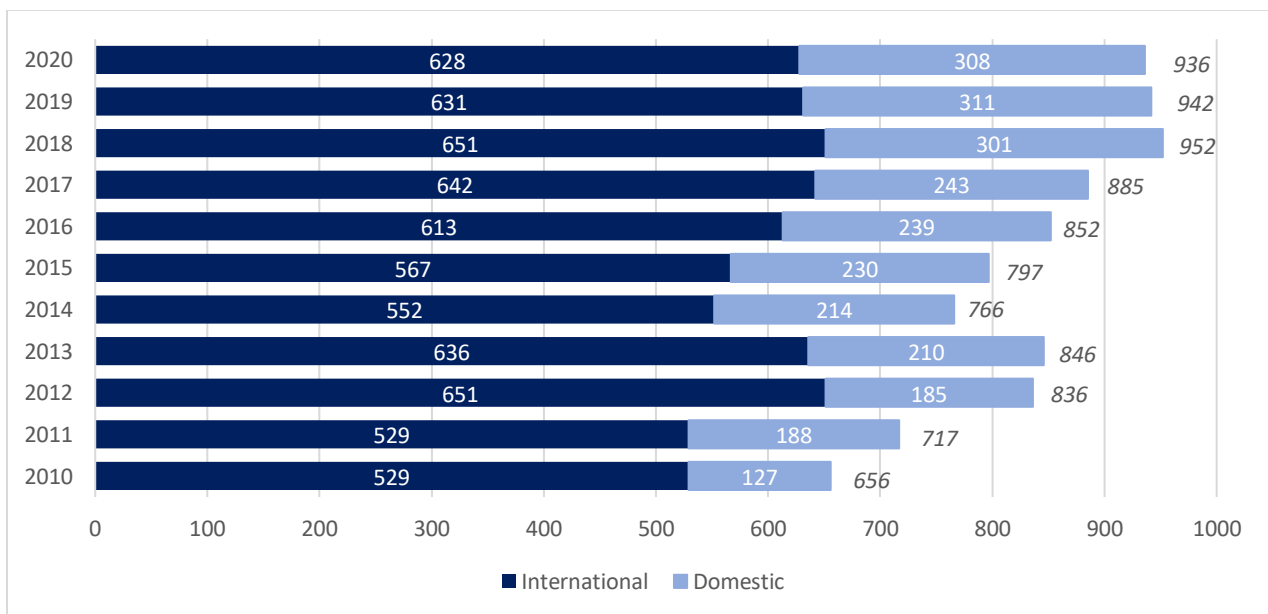
Note: the bonded numbers include those in the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP), as well as those in the Commonwealth’s BMP and MRBS schemes

Full-Fee Paying students

Across medical schools in Australia in 2020, 9.6% of domestic commencing students were full fee paying (FFP), similar to 2019 but an increase from 7.6% on 2017 (which can be attributed primarily to the first cohort of Macquarie University's new medical program commencing in 2018).

The proportion of commencing international students compared to total commencing students remained steady at 16.3% in 2020 compared with 16.1% in 2019. The data indicates that the vast majority of international medical students have been able to continue with their commencement in an Australian medical program despite the constraints and travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 11. Australian medical school commencements – by full fee paying (FFP) places



The entry path numbers of Australian medical school commencements has remained very stable over the last few years

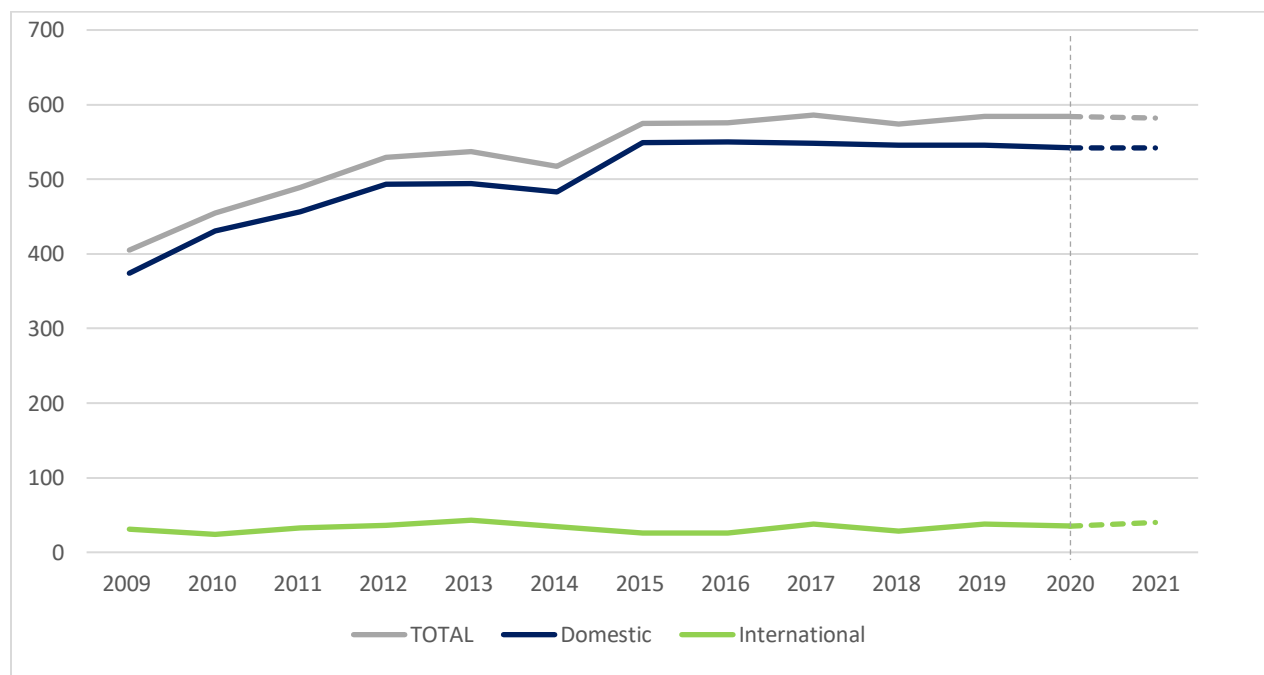
New Zealand

In New Zealand there were 542 domestic and 35 international commencing medical students in 2020. After a gradual increase of total commencements from 2010 to 2015, numbers have plateaued with a projection of 582 commencements in 2021. It is projected that 582 students will commence medical studies in New Zealand next year.

Table 6. Students commencing at New Zealand medical schools

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	374	431	456	493	494	483	549	550	548	546	546	542
International	31	24	33	36	43	34	26	26	38	28	38	35
TOTAL	405	455	489	529	537	517	575	576	586	574	584	577

Figure 12. Commencements at New Zealand medical schools



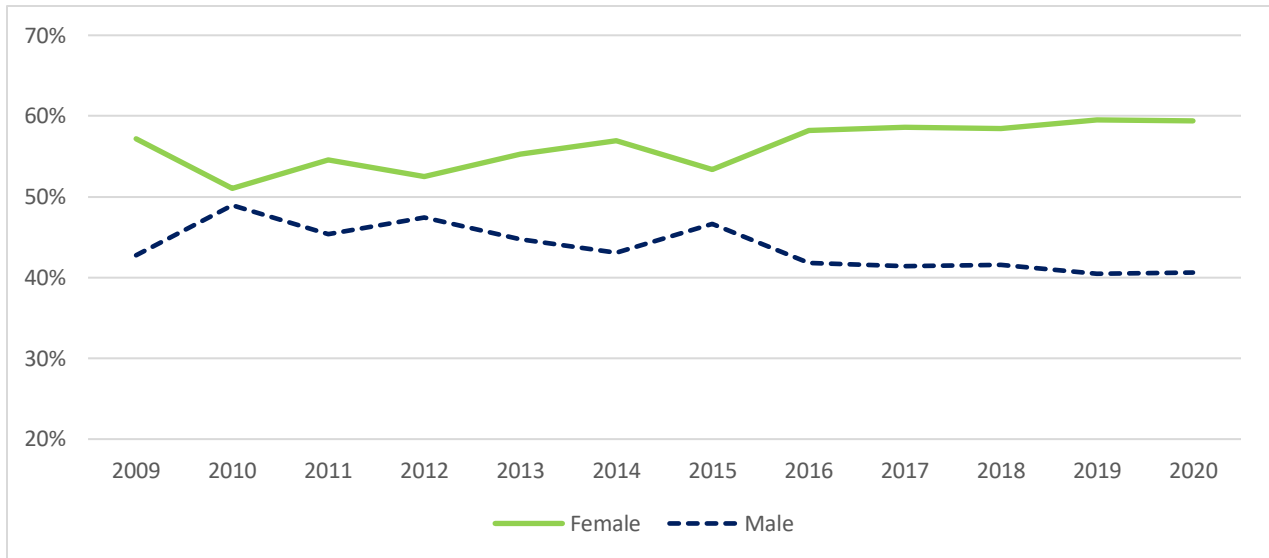
* Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2021

Commencing medical student numbers in New Zealand have remained basically unchanged since 2015

Gender

The gender balance has remained marginally under 60% in favour of females. The proportion has changed very little in the last decade, and has been very stable for the last 5 years.

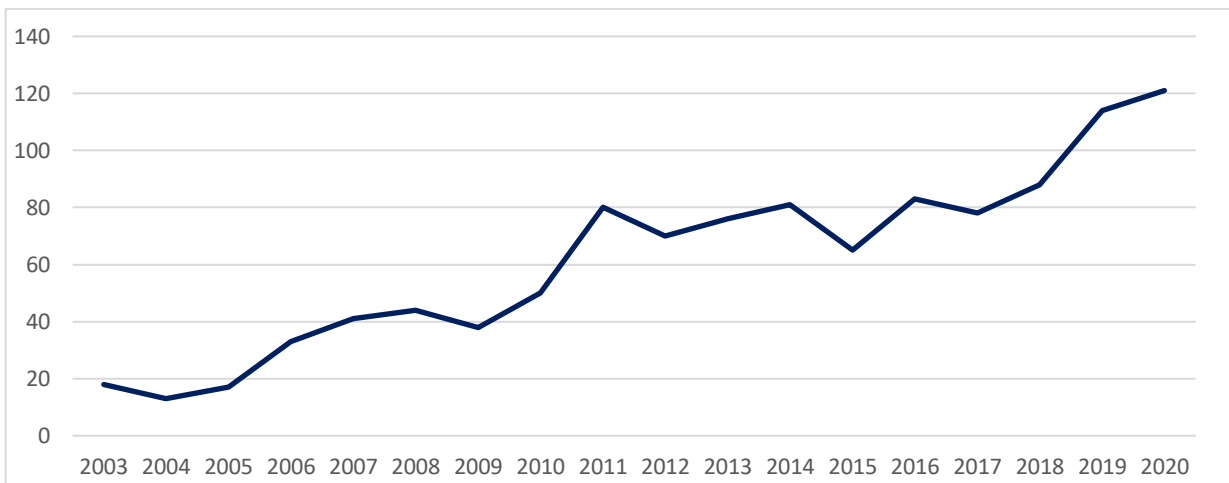
Figure 13. All commencements across New Zealand medical schools – by gender



Indigenous commencing students

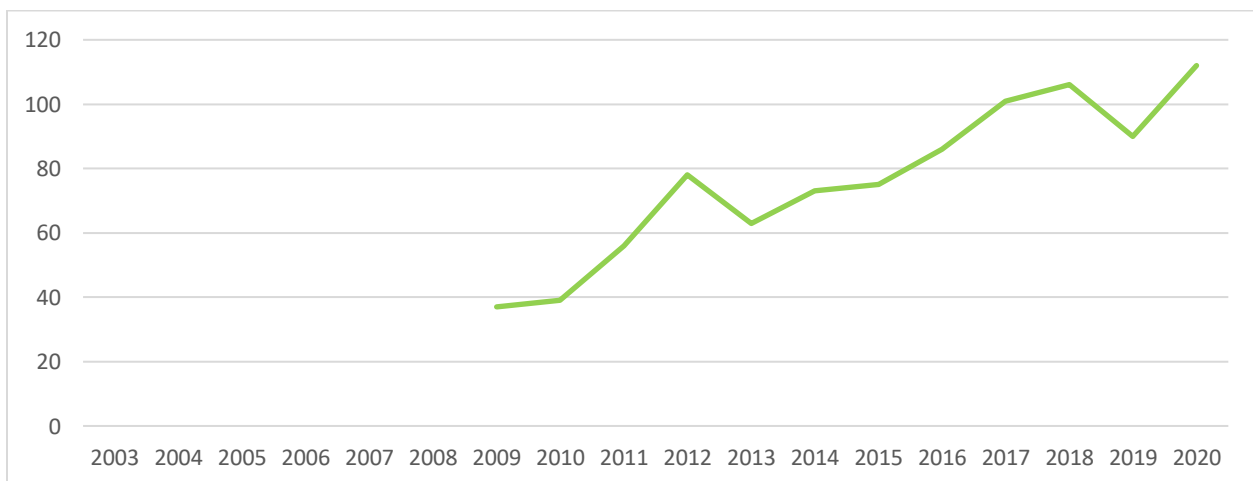
In 2020, 121 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students started in year one of medicine, which is 3.7% of domestic commencing Australian medical students; a 6.1% increase from 2019 and a 55% increase in the last 3 years.

Figure 14. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student commencements at Australian medical schools



In New Zealand there were 112 commencing Māori medical students in 2020, comprising 20.6% of the domestic cohort; an increase of 49% in the last 5 years.

Figure 15. Māori student commencements at New Zealand medical schools



The number of commencing Indigenous medical students has tripled in both countries since 2009

Total Enrolments in 2020

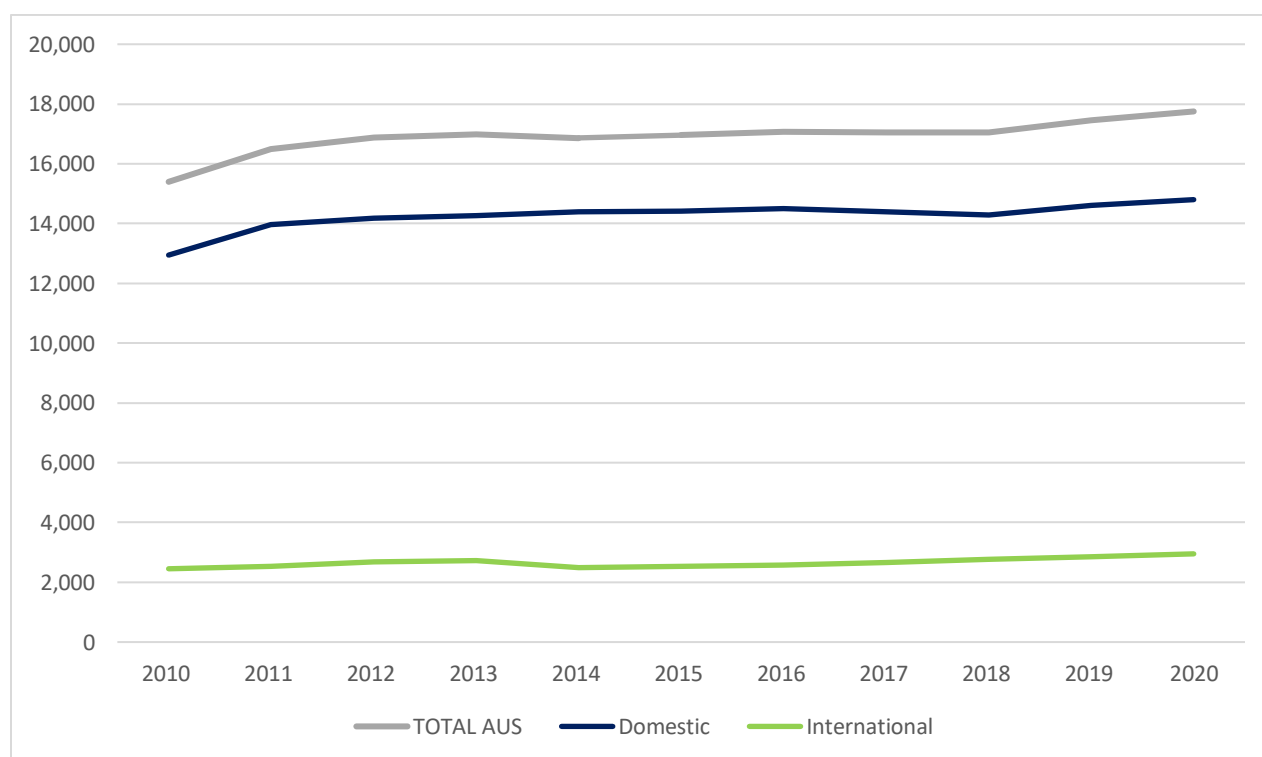
Australia

In 2020 there were a total of 17,752 students enrolled in Australian medical schools; comprising 14,801 (83.4%) domestic and 2,951 (16.6%) international students.

Table 7. Enrolled Australian medical students

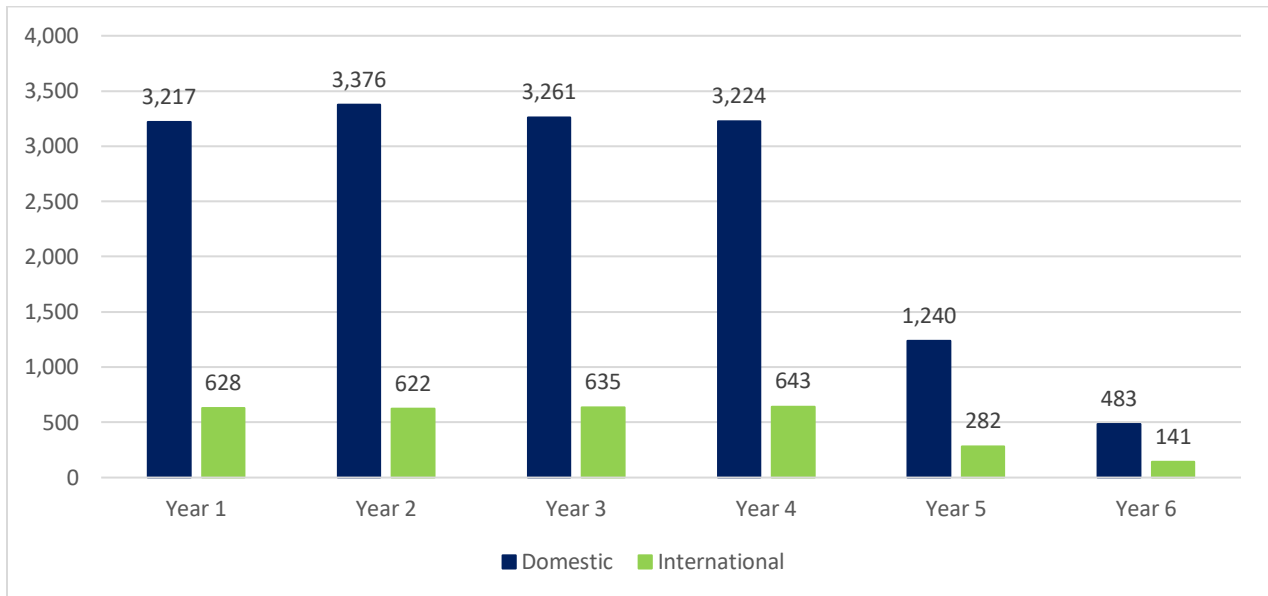
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	12,946	13,956	14,177	14,266	14,384	14,424	14,498	14,388	14,284	14,601	14,801
International	2,451	2,535	2,691	2,727	2,483	2,535	2,580	2,668	2,768	2,858	2,951
TOTAL AUS	15,397	16,491	16,868	16,993	16,867	16,959	17,078	17,056	17,052	17,459	17,752

Figure 16. Enrolled students in Australian medical schools – domestic and international



Enrolments in Australia have increased slightly in the last 2 years

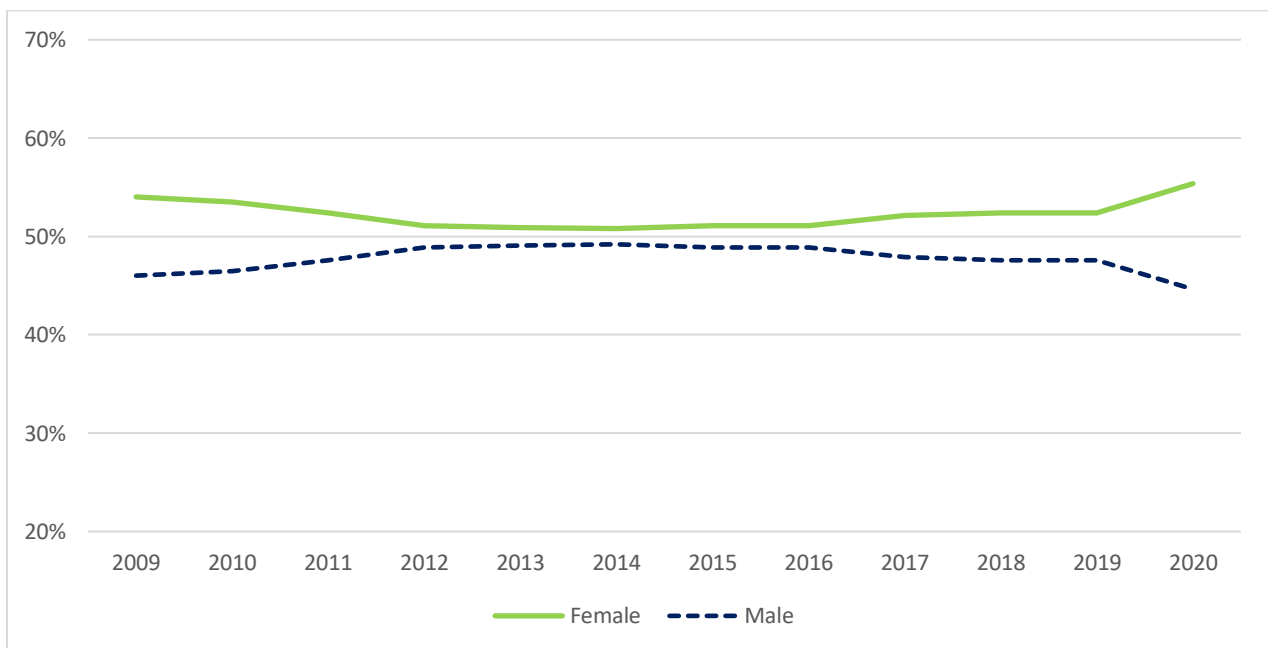
Figure 17. Enrolled students in Australian medical schools – by year of course in 2020



Gender

Of all students enrolled in a medical program, the gender balance increased to 55.4%, just slightly higher than in 2009, and continuing the trend seen since 2016.

Figure 18. All enrolments at Australian medical schools – by gender



Note: These figures do not include the small number of students who identified as indeterminate / intersex / unspecified

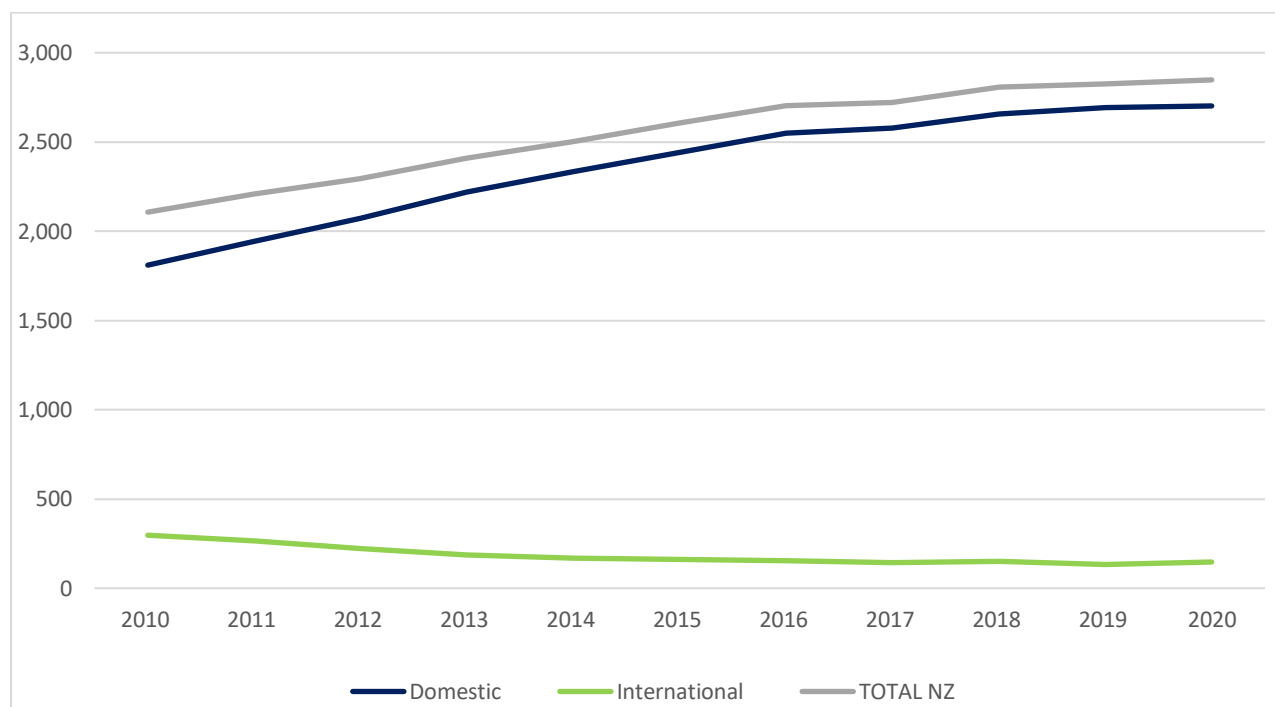
New Zealand

In New Zealand medical schools in 2020 there were 2,848 total enrolments, comprising 2,702 domestic students (95%) and 146 international students (5%).

Table 8. Enrolled students at New Zealand medical schools

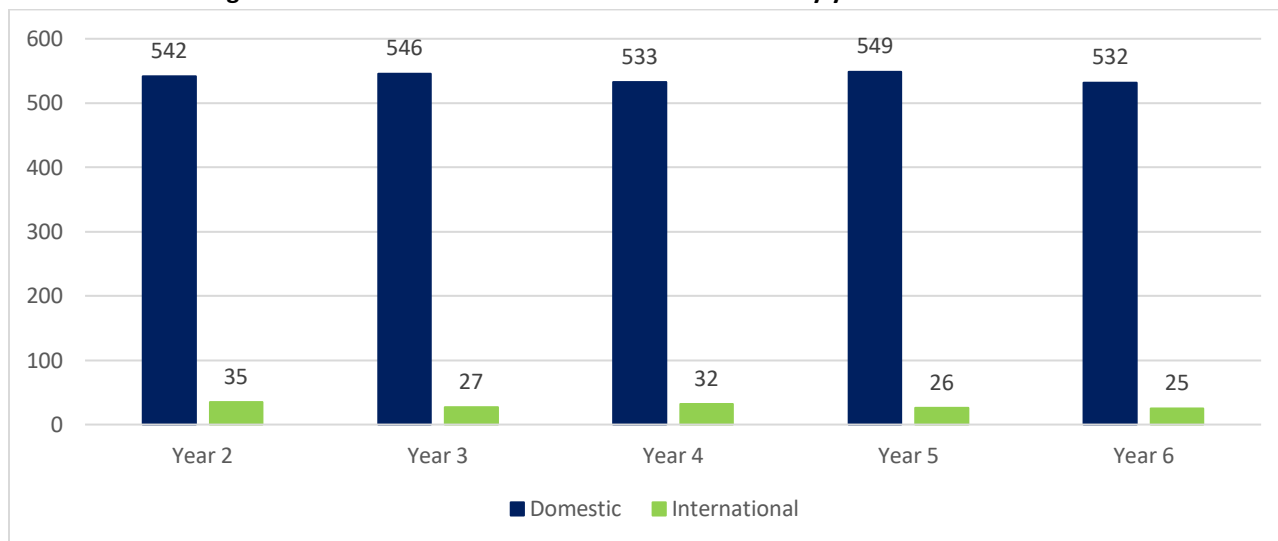
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	1,810	1,944	2,071	2,220	2,335	2,442	2,548	2,578	2,657	2,692	2,702
International	297	265	224	188	167	163	155	143	151	133	146
TOTAL NZ	2,107	2,209	2,295	2,408	2,502	2,605	2,703	2,721	2,808	2,825	2,848

Figure 19. Enrolled students at New Zealand medical schools, domestic and international – by year



New Zealand enrolments are plateauing after a period of growth

Figure 20. New Zealand medical school enrolments – by year of course in 2020

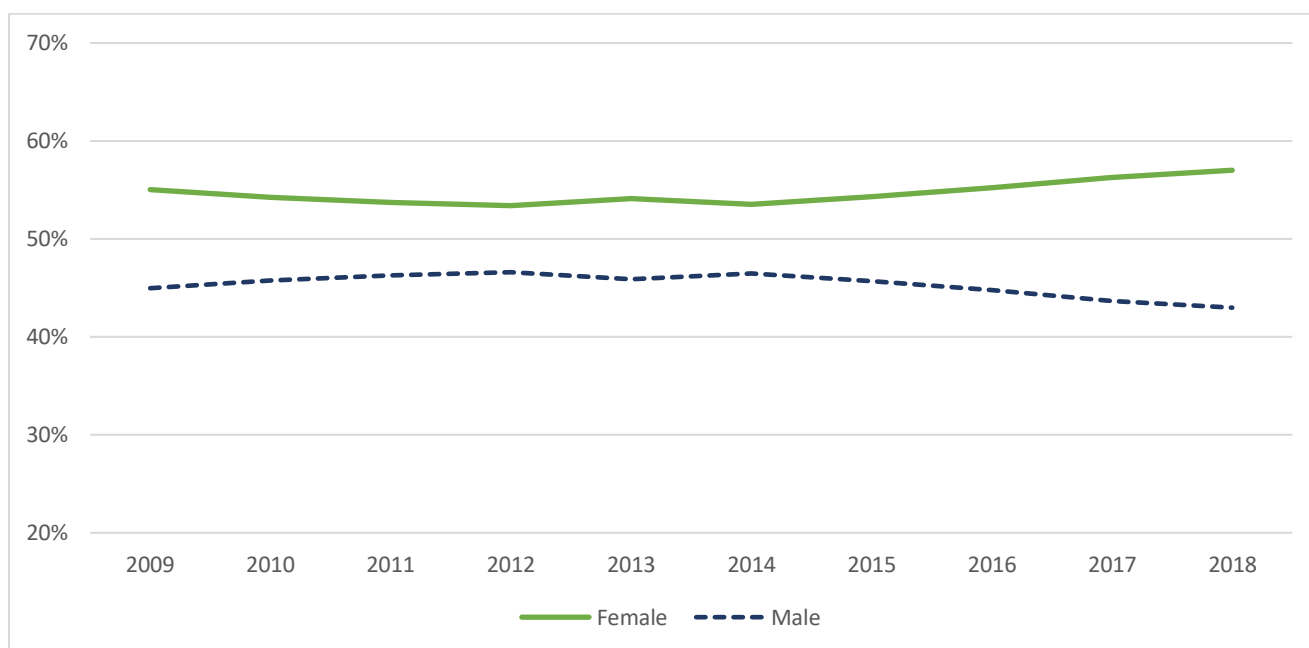


Note: In New Zealand, students commence studying medicine in Year 2, as the first year is a foundation year in a Biomedical or Health Sciences course.

Gender

The gender balance in New Zealand medical schools is also female, at 57%, marginally higher than last year and slightly higher than in Australia.

Figure 21. All enrolments at New Zealand medical schools – by gender



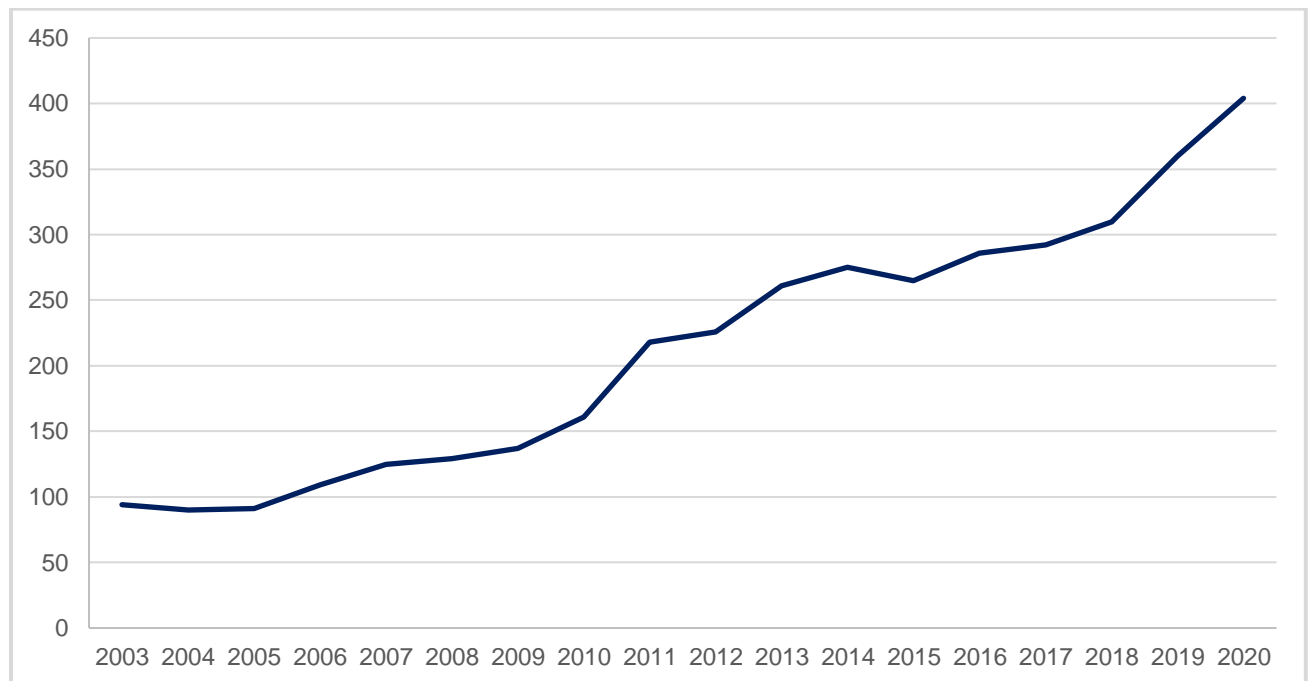
Indigenous enrolled students

In **Australian** medical schools in 2020 there were 404 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolments; which is 2.7% of domestic enrolments.

Table 9. Enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
94	90	91	109	125	129	137	161	218	226	261	275	265	286	292	310	360	404

Figure 22 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolments in Australian medical schools



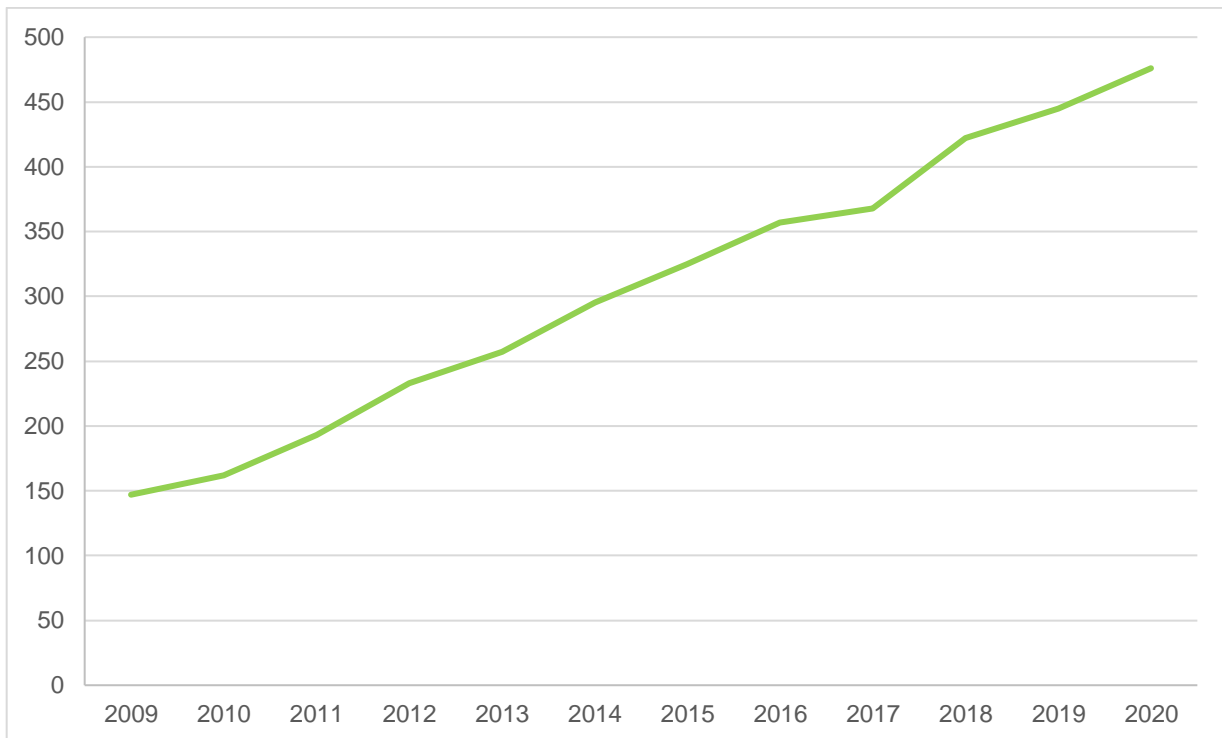
2020 saw a 30% increase in the number of enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students

In 2020, there were 476 Māori students enrolled in **New Zealand** medical schools. This was 17.6% of enrolled domestic students.

Table 10. Enrolled Māori medical students

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020
147	162	193	233	257	295	325	357	368	422	445	445	476

Figure 23. Māori students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools



The number of Māori medical students has more than tripled since 2009

BACKGROUND

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) collates these annual student statistics from data provided by all medical schools across Australia and New Zealand. The collected statistics are stored and managed by Medical Deans, and provides a national source of comprehensive trans-Tasman medical school student and graduate 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori 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/>

Report published by **Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc.**, July 2020

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