

Student Statistics Report 2020

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Australia

At the end of **2019**, 3,637 medical students **graduated** from Australian medical schools, 6 fewer than the previous year. Of these, 85.4% were domestic students. The number of international graduates rose by 7.3% on the previous year, to 530.

In 2020, 4,057 students **commenced** studying medicine at an Australian medical school; 17 more than in 2019. At the time of collecting this data from medical schools – which was prior to the major impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – the number of medical students was expected to remain relatively stable in the coming years, with commencements in 2021 projected to be 3,978 students.

There were 3,411 domestic commencements in 2020 which was 22 more than in 2019. Of these, 11.1% were full fee paying, an increase from 9.7% in 2019. The proportion of international commencing students remained relatively stable, at 15.9%.

In total there were 3,031 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) commencing this year, 30 fewer than in 2019. There were 22 more bonded places (to work in areas of workforce shortage) and 61 fewer non-bonded places. Domestic medical students in a bonded scheme made up 27.4% of the total domestic commencements, slightly up from the 26.9% in 2019.

The gender balance remained slightly in favor of females for all entry schemes with the exception of bonded places and international students, where for both groups the balance was less than 49% female. Overall, females comprised 51.0% of commencing medical students, marginally lower than the 51.9% in 2019.

There were 3,773 students enrolled **in their final year** of medical school in 2020. Applying a final-year attrition rate similar to that seen in recent years (2.9%) it is anticipated that around 3,664 will graduate at the end of 2020. No adjustment has been made to these figures to take account of any impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New Zealand

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

This year 577 medical students **commenced** study at New Zealand medical schools - slightly up from 2019's 574. Commencing numbers have been steady for the last 5 years and are expected to remain so with 582 students projected to 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.

A total of 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, 44 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students **graduated** from medical programs in Australia, and in New Zealand 65 Māori students graduated. Across Australia and New Zealand there has been a 58.0% increase in the number of Indigenous graduates since 2014.

In Australia this year, 121 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students **commenced** studying medicine in Australia, which is 3.5% of domestic commencing students and just over a 5.2% growth from 2019 numbers.

In New Zealand 112 commencing medical students were Māori, comprising 20.7% of the commencing domestic cohort – an increase of 24.4% from 2019.

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

A total of 403 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 when the proportion 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 and 14.3% of New Zealand domestic enrolments in 2017.

Note: International student numbers include only those enrolled in onshore programs

For any enquiries, please contact Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand:

E: admin@medicaldeans.org.au

P: +61 2 8084 6557

2019 Graduates

Australian Medical School Graduates (2019)

By the end of 2019 3,637 medical students graduated from Australian medical schools, of which 3,107 (85.4%) were domestic and 530 (14.6%) international students. The largest cohort (31.1%) graduated from NSW/ACT medical schools, followed by Victoria (25.9%) and Queensland (23.2%).

Table 1. Graduates of Australian medical schools

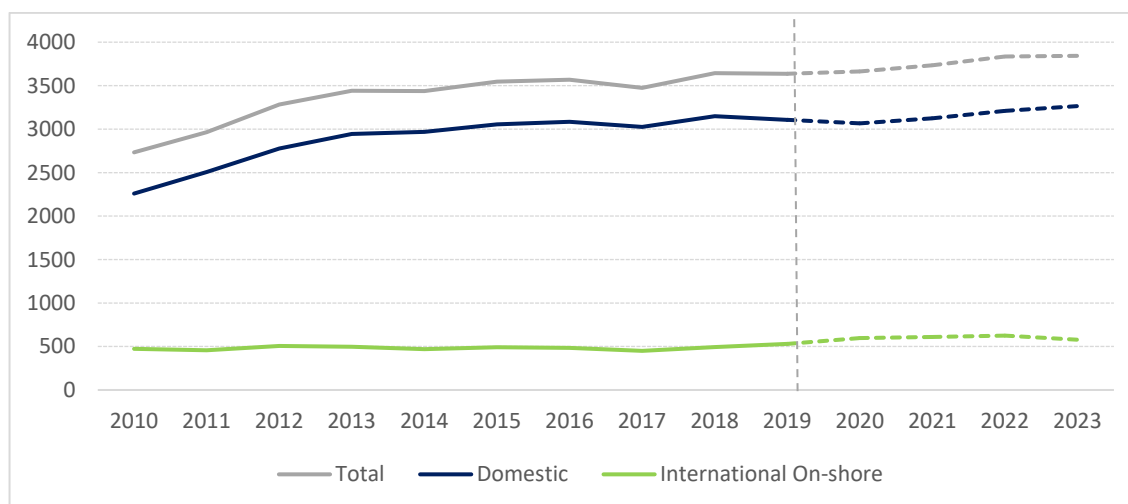
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Domestic	2,259	2,507	2,777	2,944	2,968	3,055	3,085	3,025	3,149	3,107
International	474	457	507	497	469	492	484	450	494	530
Total	2,733	2,964	3,284	3,441	3,437	3,547	3,569	3,475	3,643	3,637

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 across 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	3,773	3,664 <i>estimated</i>
2021	3,846	3,734 <i>estimated</i>
2022	3,950	3,835 <i>estimated</i>
2023	3,957	3,842 <i>estimated</i>

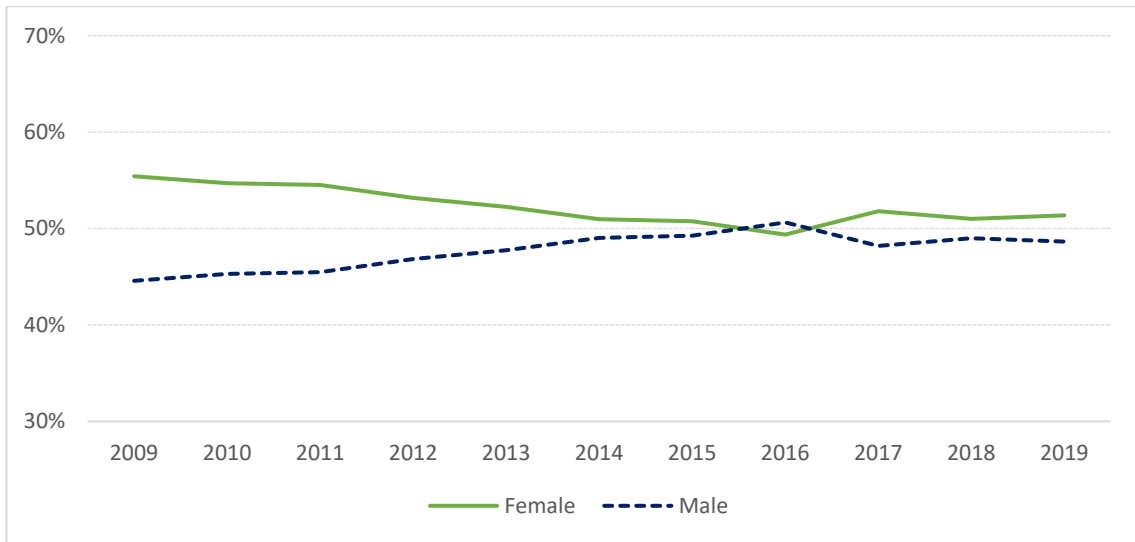
Following the slowed growth in commencing students, the numbers of graduating students has started to plateau and is expected to remain fairly stable in the coming years, increasing by around 200 by 2023.

Figure 1. Graduates of Australian medical schools – by year (projected for 2020 onwards)



Note: Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2020 onwards

Figure 2. All Australian medical school graduates – by gender



Note: These figures do not include the small number of students who identify as non-binary / unspecified

New Zealand Medical School Graduates (2019)

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

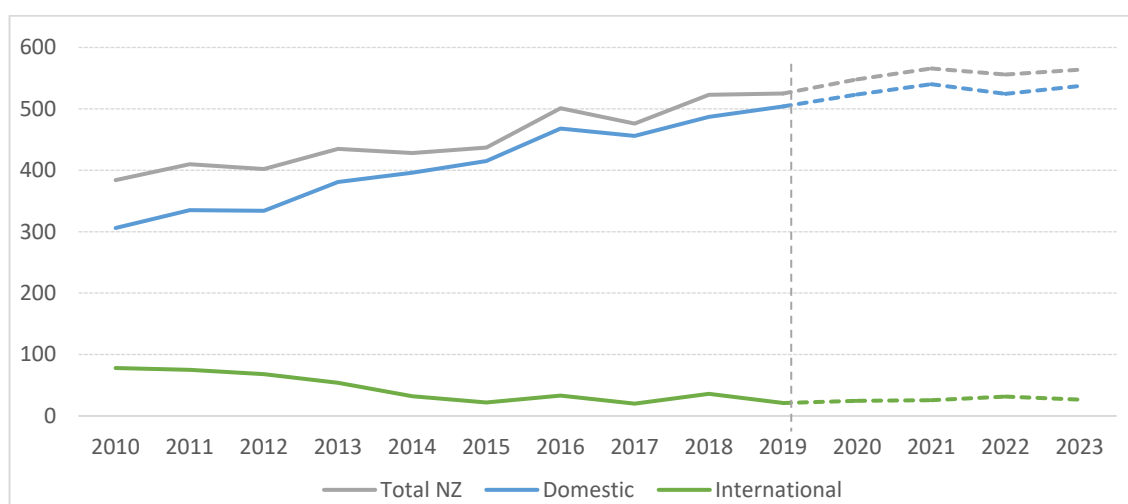
Table 2. Graduates of New Zealand medical schools

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Domestic	306	335	334	381	396	415	468	456	487	504
International	78	75	68	54	32	22	33	20	36	21
Total	384	410	402	435	428	437	501	476	523	525

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: no attrition for the years leading up to the final year has been applied.*

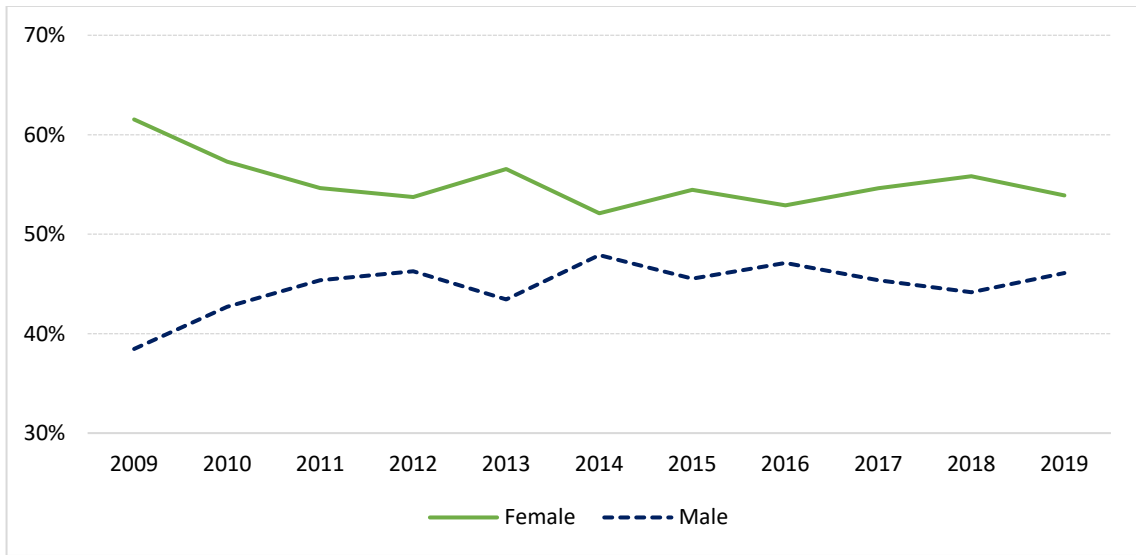
<u>Graduating Year</u>	<u>Students enrolled in cohorts graduating that year</u>	<u>Students estimated to graduate (after applying <i>single</i> reduction of 1.6%)</u>
2020	557	548 <i>estimated</i>
2021	575	566 <i>estimated</i>
2022	565	556 <i>estimated</i>
2023	573	564 <i>estimated</i>

Figure 3. Graduates of New Zealand medical schools



Note: Dashed lines indicate projected numbers

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



Indigenous Graduates (2019)

In 2019, 44 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors graduated from medical programs in Australia, and 65 Māori doctors graduated from New Zealand medical schools.

Table 3. Graduating Indigenous medical students – by year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
AUS	7	12	8	14	11	15	14	24	35	44	35	49	42	44
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

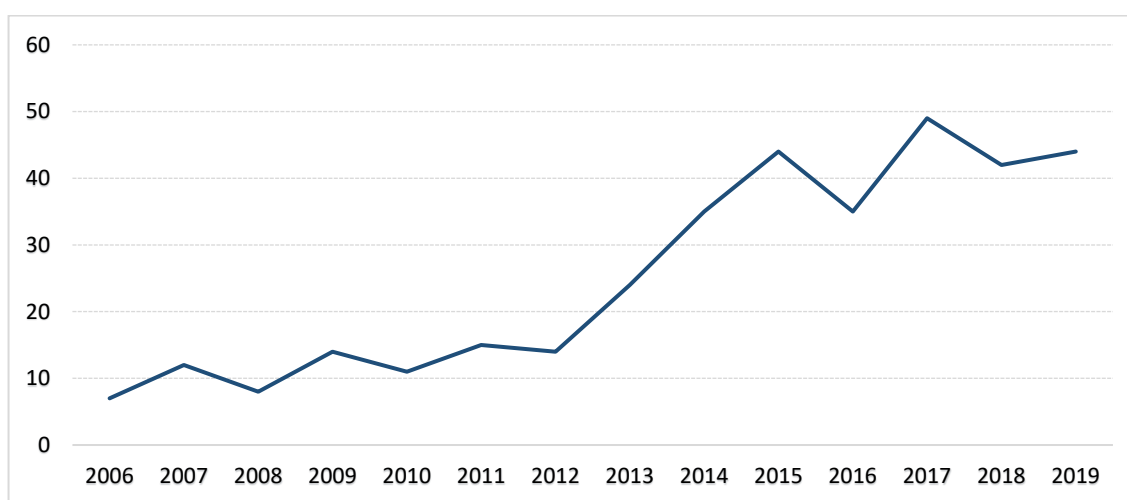
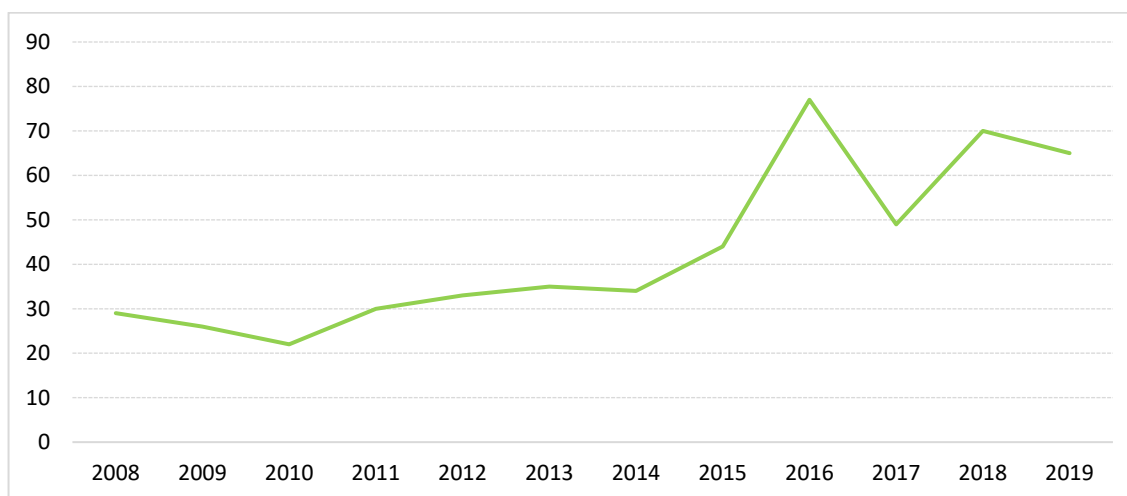


Figure 6. Graduating Māori students from New Zealand medical schools



2020 Commencements

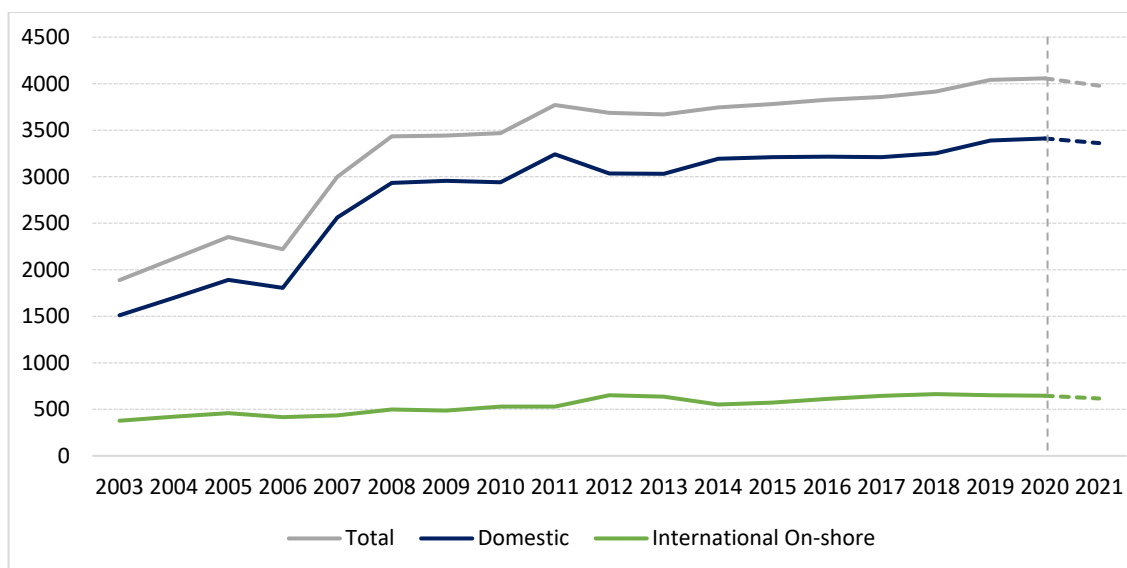
Australian Medical School Commencements

In 2020 there were 4,057 commencing medical students at Australian medical schools, comprising 3,411 domestic and 646 international students (Table 4). Following the period of rapid growth from 2007, the numbers started to stabilise in 2011 and are expected to remain steady in the coming years, with 3,978 projected commencements in 2021.

Table 4. Commencing students at Australian medical schools

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	1511	1699	1892	1805	2562	2934	2955	2940	3241	3035	3032	3193	3210	3215	3211	3252	3389	3411
International	378	421	460	417	436	499	487	529	529	651	637	552	572	613	645	664	651	646
Total	1889	2120	2352	2222	2998	3433	3442	3469	3770	3686	3669	3745	3782	3828	3856	3916	4040	4057

Figure 7. Commencing students at Australian medical schools



Note: Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2021

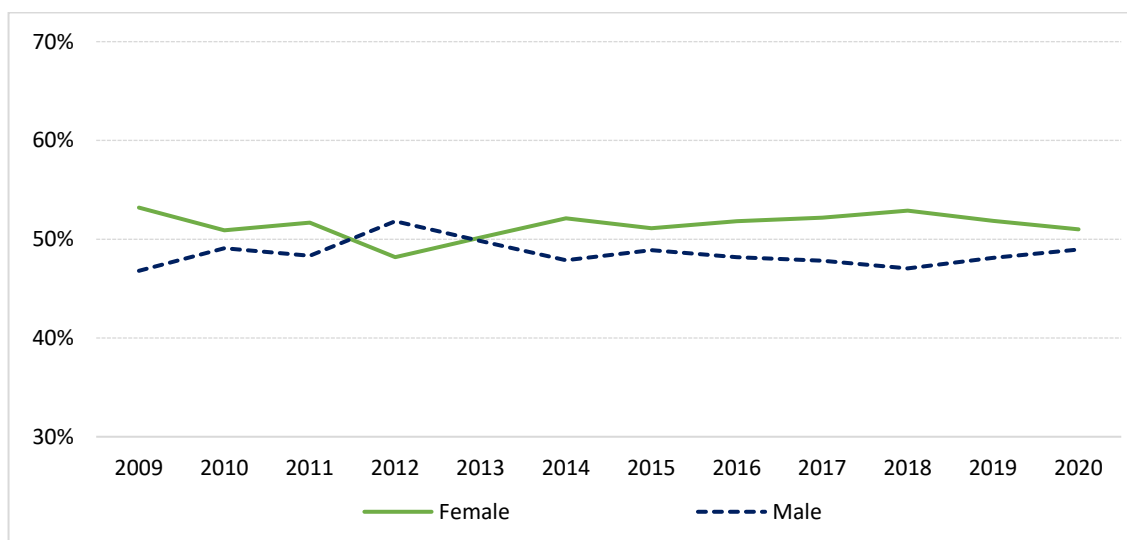
Australian medical school commencements have been stable since the growth between 2006 and 2011

Gender

51.0% of commencing students in medical schools in Australia were female, marginally lower than the previous year. The gender balance is slightly different for the bonded CSPs (which does not include the Northern Territory Medical Program) and international students where, for both these groups, the gender balance is reversed (47.7% and 48.6% female respectively).

Note: a very few students identified as non-binary or 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 identify as non-binary/unspecified.

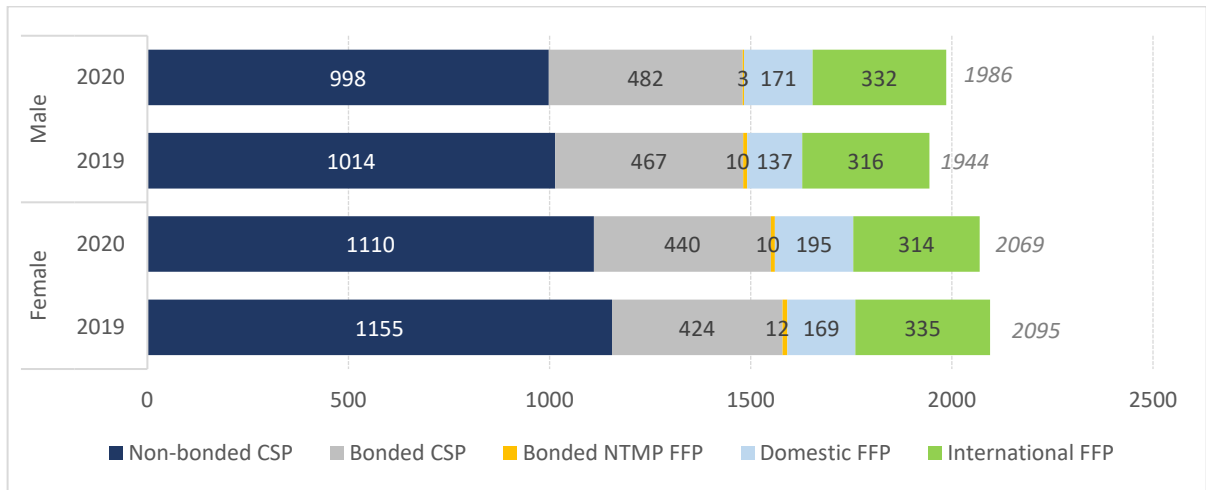
Entry schemes

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

	Non bonded CSP		Bonded CSP		Bonded NTMP FFP		Domestic FFP		International FFP		TOTAL	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
2020	1110	998	440	482	10	3	195	171	314	332	2069	1986
2019	1155	1014	424	467	12	10	169	137	335	316	2095	1944
2018	1101	959	455	410	16	9	160	139	339	325	2071	1842

Note: 2020 numbers do not include the small of students who identify as non-binary / unspecified.

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

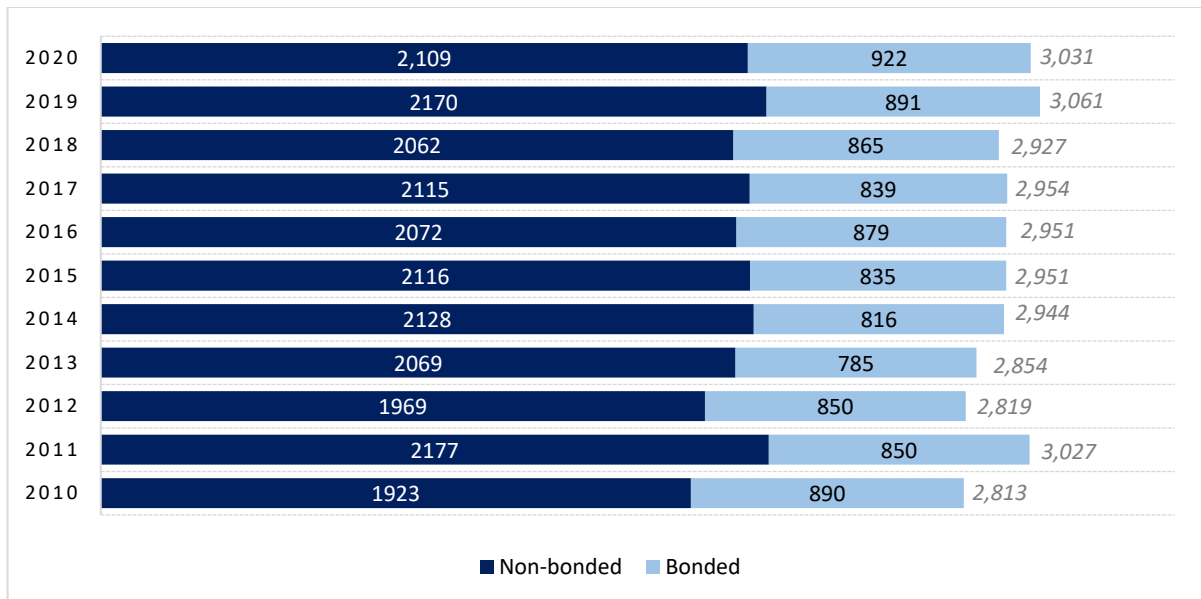


Note: 2020 numbers do not include the small number of students who identify as non-binary / unspecified.

Commonwealth Supported Places

In Australia, the total number of commencing Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) dropped by 30 to 3,031. There was a slight increase in the proportion of commencing domestic students in the Commonwealth’s Bonded Medical Program scheme (in which the participant accepts a CSP and agrees to work in an area of workforce shortage for a period of time), from 26.3% in 2019 to 27.0% in 2020.

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



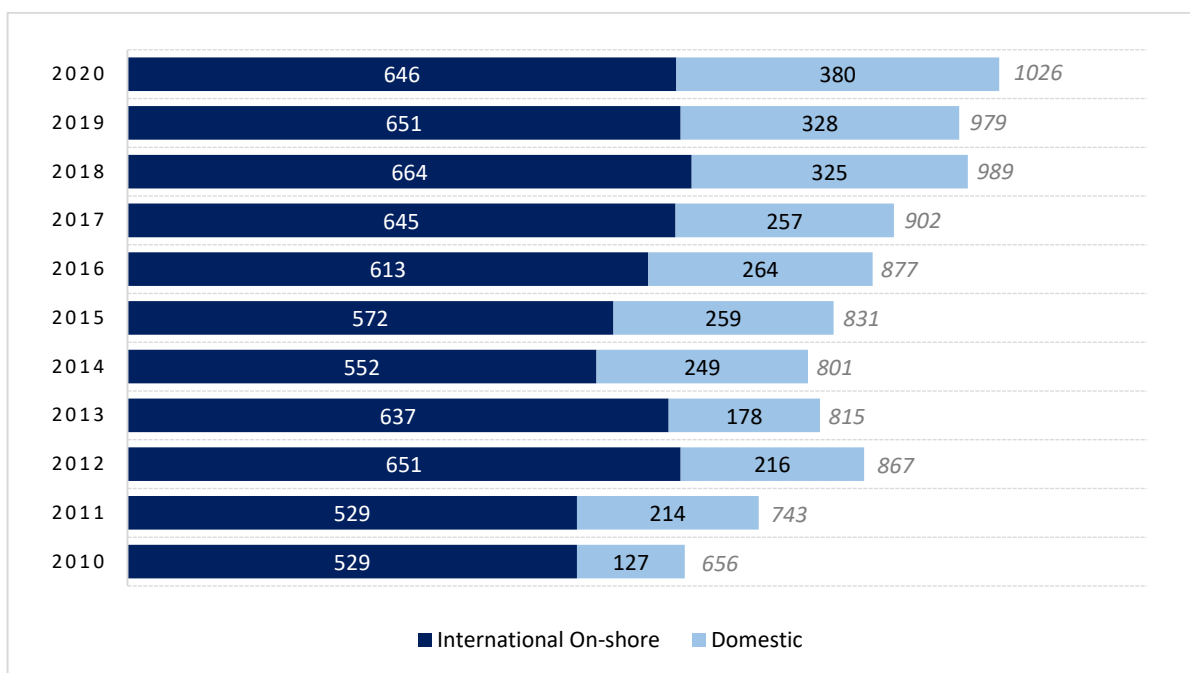
Note: These numbers do not include the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) bonded places

Full-Fee Paying students

Across medical schools in Australia in 2020, 11.1% of domestic commencing students were full fee paying (FFP); up from the 9.7% in 2019.

The proportion of commencing international students compared to total commencing students remained steady at 15.9% in 2020 compared to 16.1% in 2019.

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



Note: These numbers include those in the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) which, whilst funded by government, are classified as FFP places

The number of Australian medical school CSPs has remained very stable over the last decade

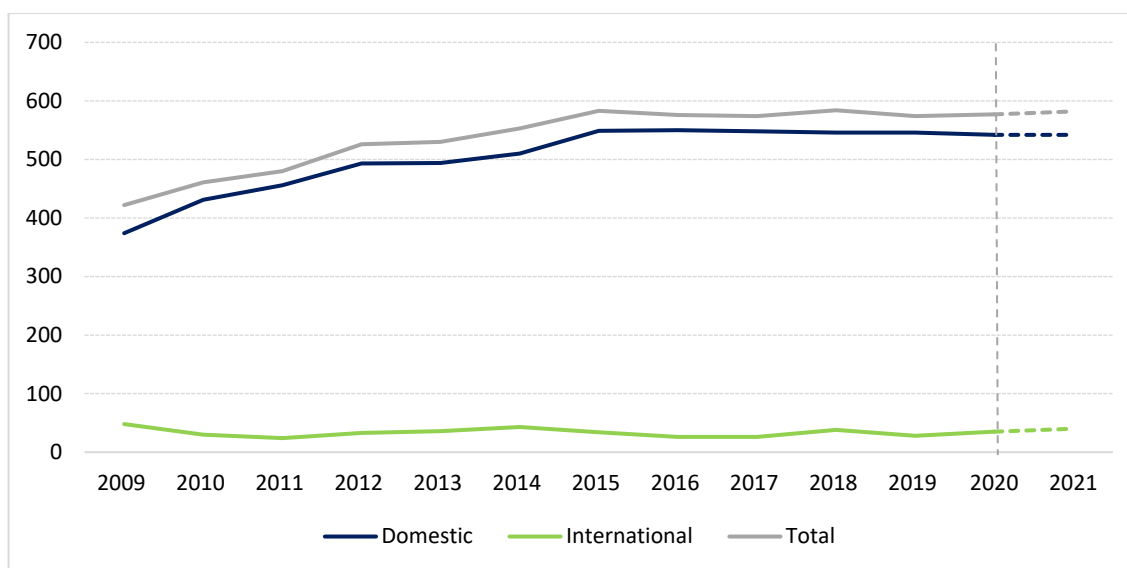
New Zealand Medical School Commencements

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	510	549	550	548	546	546	542
International	48	30	24	33	36	43	34	26	26	38	28	35
Total	422	461	480	526	530	553	583	576	574	584	574	577

Figure 12. Commencements at New Zealand medical schools



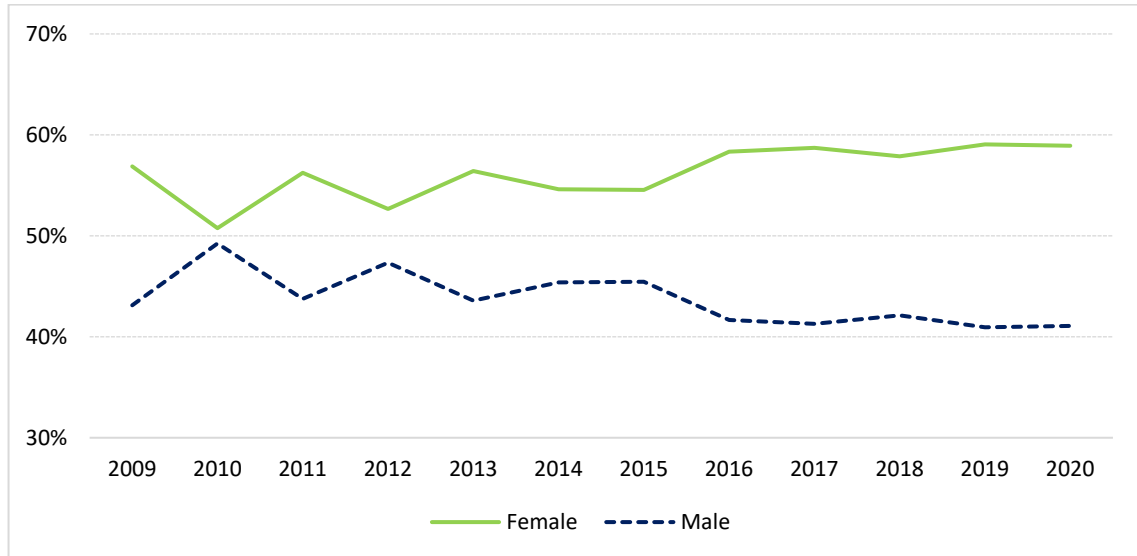
Note: Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2021

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 little in the last decade, and has been very stable for the last 5 years.

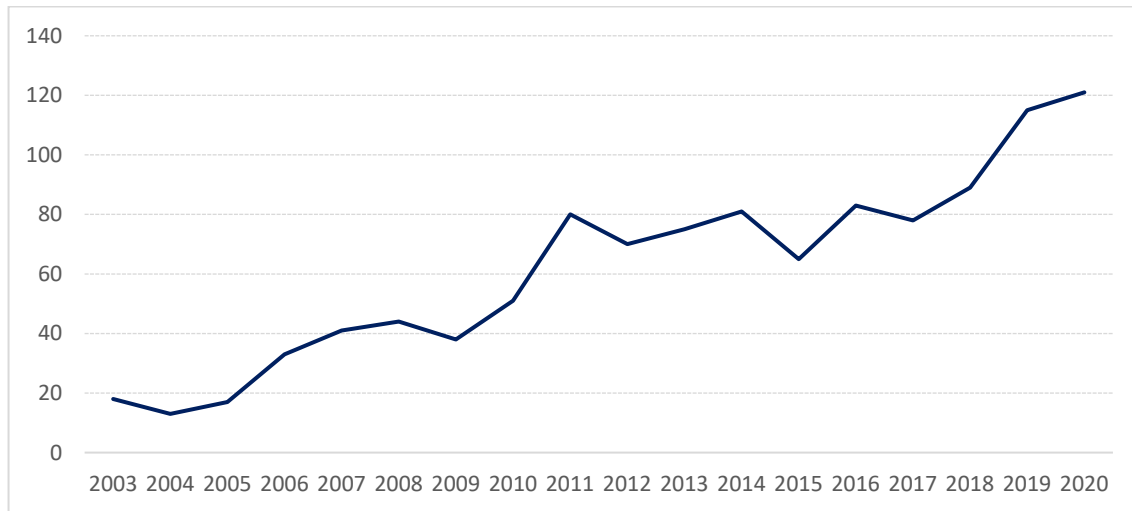
Figure 13. All commencements across New Zealand medical schools – by gender



Indigenous commencements

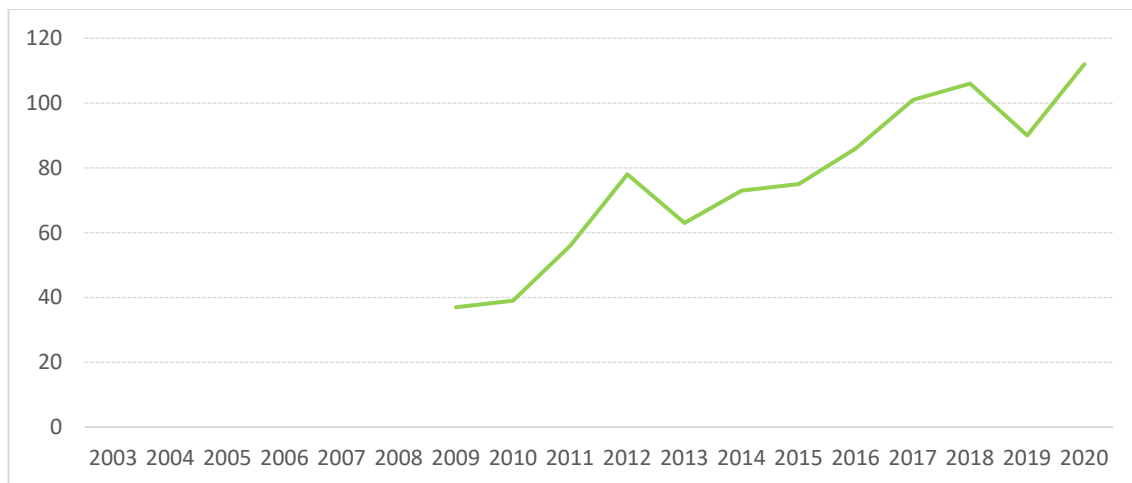
In 2020, 121 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students started in year one of medicine in Australia, which is 3.5% of domestic commencing Australian medical students; a 5.2% increase from 2019 and a 55.1% increase in the last 3 years.

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 20.7% of the domestic cohort; an increase of 49.3% since 2015.

Figure 15. Māori student commencements at New Zealand medical schools



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

2020 Total Enrolments

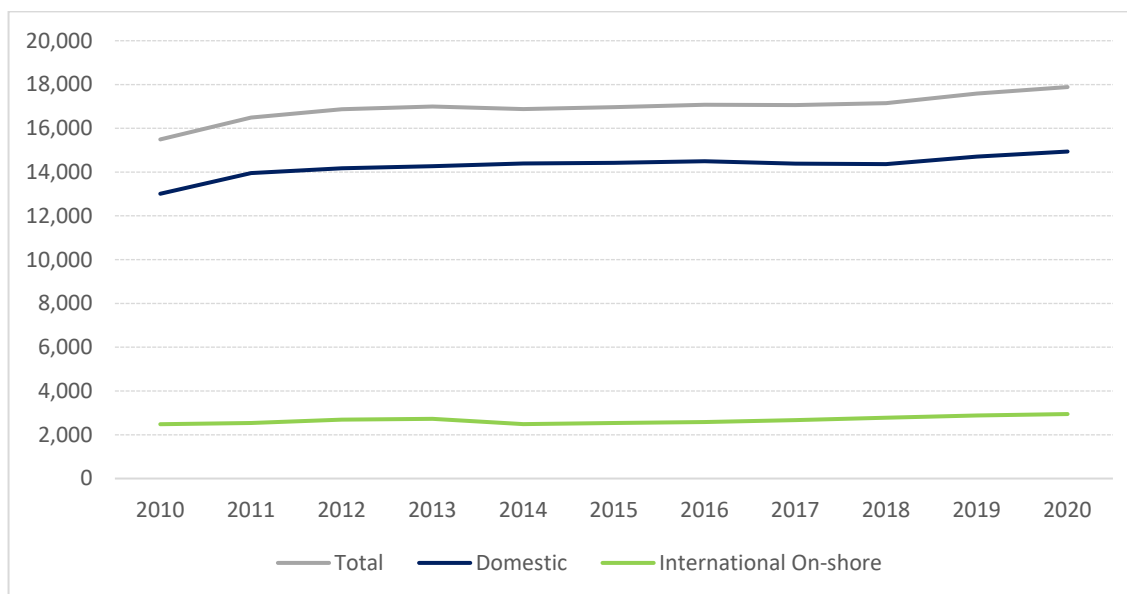
Australian Medical School Total Enrolments

In 2020 there were a total of 17,884 students enrolled in Australian medical schools; comprising 14,938 (83.5%) domestic and 2,946 (16.5%) international students.

Table 7. Enrolled students at Australian medical schools

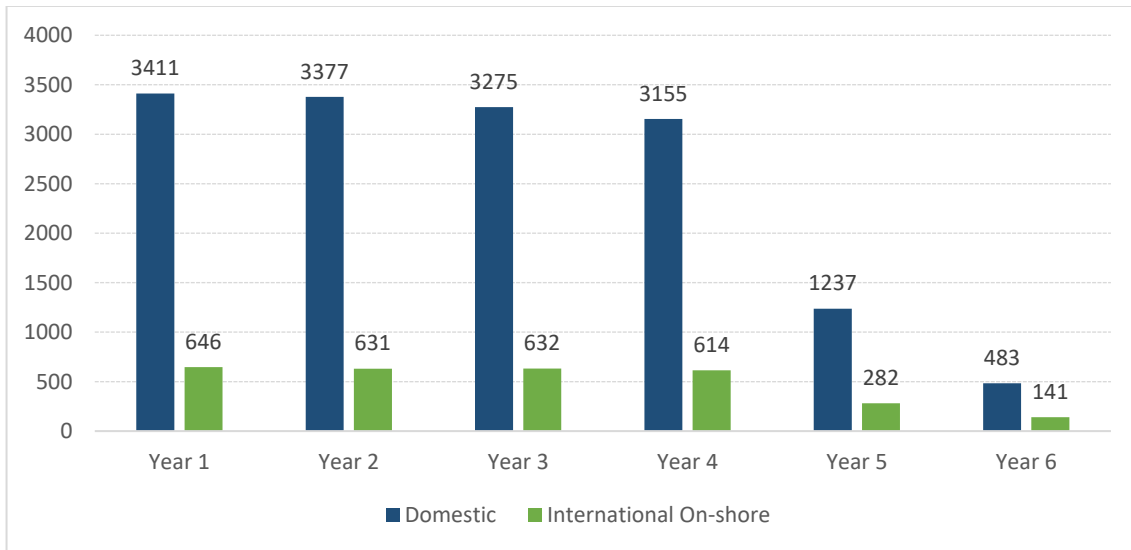
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	13,010	13,956	14,177	14,266	14,392	14,424	14,498	14,388	14,365	14,708	14,938
International	2,482	2,535	2,691	2,728	2,483	2,540	2,580	2,671	2,781	2,878	2,946
Total	15,492	16,491	16,868	16,993	16,875	16,964	17,078	17,059	17,146	17,586	17,884

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



Medical student enrolments in Australia have increased slightly in the last 2 years

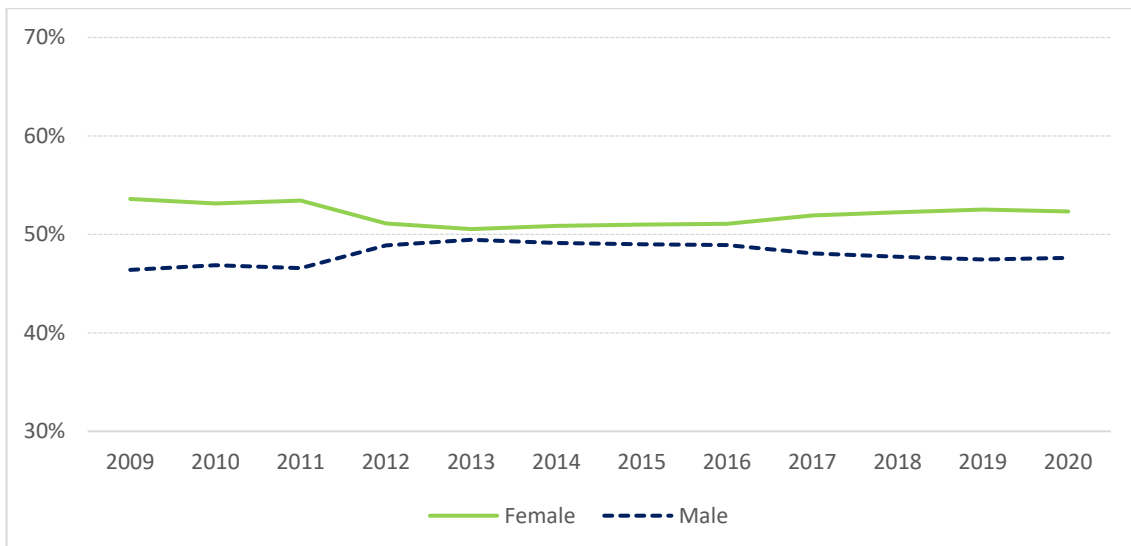
Figure 17. Enrolled students at Australian medical schools – by year of course in 2020



Gender

Of all students enrolled in a medical program in Australia, the gender balance marginally decreased to 52.3%, but has remained above 52% since 2017.

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



Note: These figures do not include the small number of students who identified as non-binary/unspecified

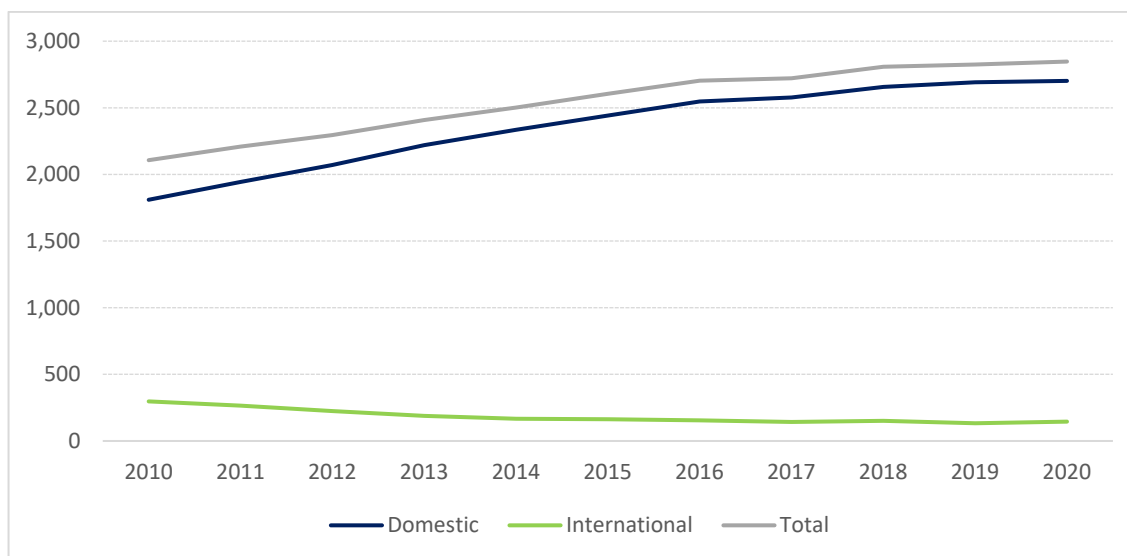
New Zealand Medical Schools Total Enrolments

In New Zealand medical schools in 2020 there were 2,847 total enrolments, comprising 2,702 domestic students (94.9%) and 145 international students (5.1%).

Table 8. Enrolled students at New Zealand medical schools

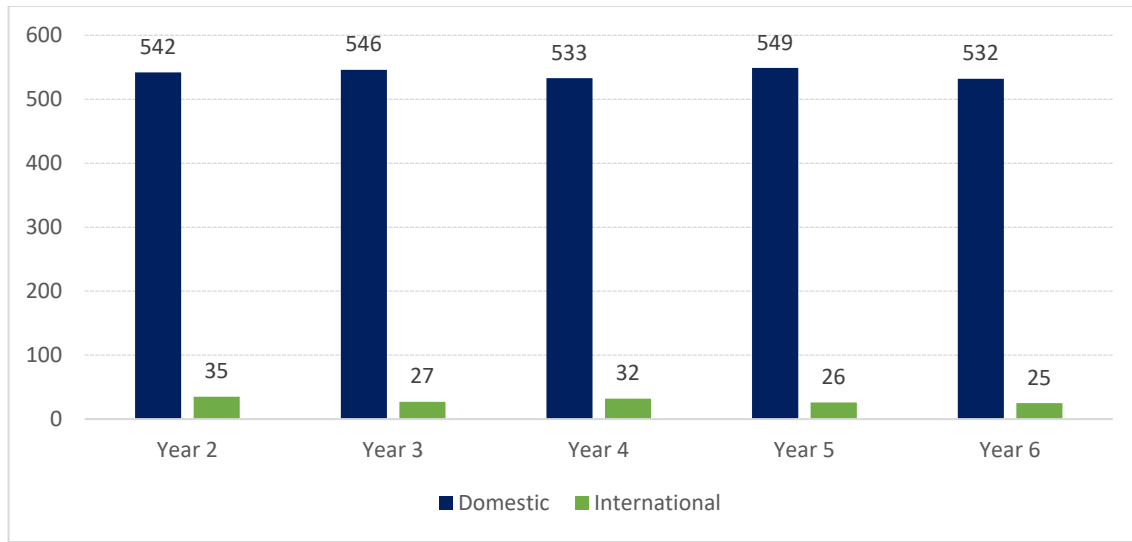
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Domestic	1,810	1,944	2,071	2,220	2,335	2,442	2,548	2,578	2,657	2,692	2,702
International	297	265	224	188	167	163	155	143	151	133	145
Total	2,107	2,209	2,295	2,408	2,502	2,605	2,703	2,721	2,808	2,825	2,847

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



New Zealand enrolments are plateauing after a period of growth

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

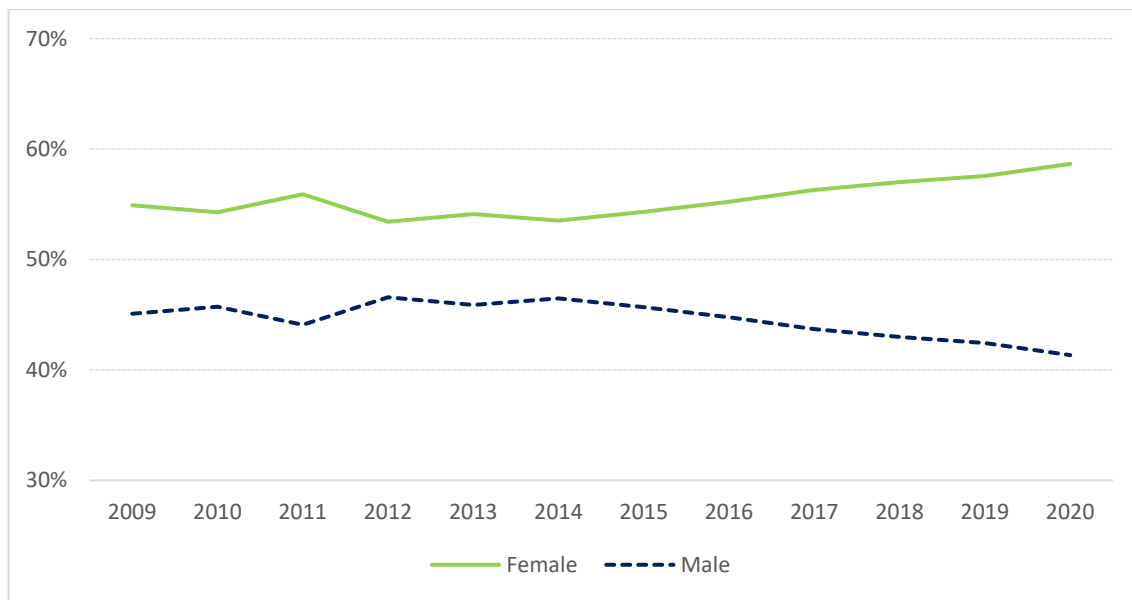


Note: In New Zealand, students commence studying medicine in Year 2, as the first year is a foundation year in a Biomedical or Health Sciences course.

Gender

The gender balance in New Zealand medical schools is also female, at 58.7%, higher than last year and a few percentage points higher than in Australia.

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



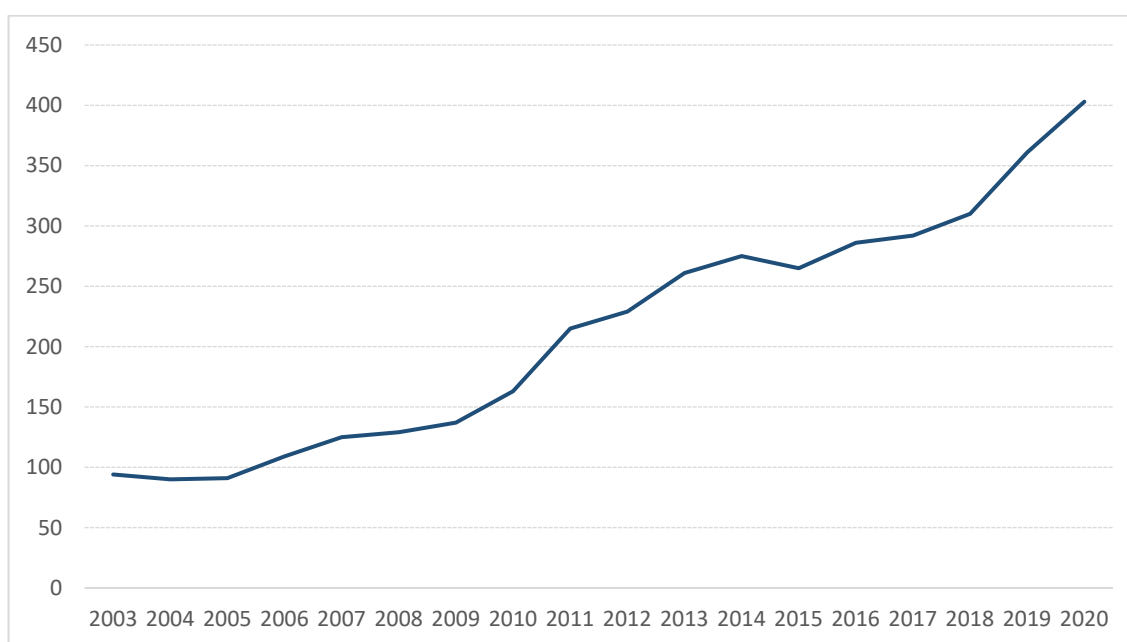
Indigenous Total Enrolments

In **Australian** medical schools in 2020, there were 403 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled (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	163	215	229	261	275	265	286	292	310	361	403

Figure 22. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in Australian medical schools



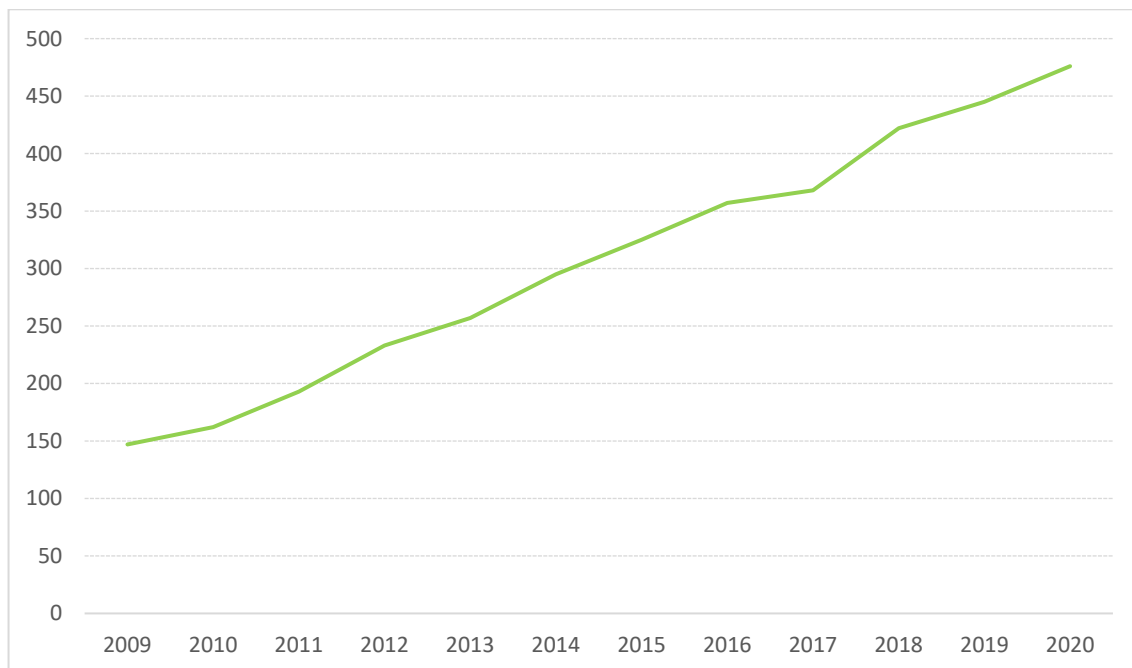
2020 saw an 11.6% increase in the number of enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students

In **New Zealand** medical schools in 2020 there were 476 Māori students enrolled (17.6% of domestic enrolments).

Table 10. Enrolled Māori medical students

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

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
Correction republished September 2021, due to some incorrect data in the original figures

Sydney NSW 2000

<https://medicaldeans.org.au/>
admin@medicaldeans.org.au