

# Student Statistics Report 2021

## SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

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### Australia

At the end of **2020**, 3,656 medical students **graduated** from Australian medical schools, 19 more than the previous year. Of these, 83.9% (3,066) were domestic students. The number of international graduates rose by 11.3% on the previous year, to 590. Female graduates comprise 52.8% of the cohort.

In 2021, 4,153 students **commenced** studying medicine at an Australian medical school, 96 more than in 2020. Commencements in 2022 are projected to be 4,065 students.

There were 3,533 domestic commencements in 2021 which was 122 more than in 2020. Of these, 10.4% were full fee paying, a decrease from 11.1% in 2020. The proportion of international commencing students in 2021 decreased slightly to 14.9% (from 15.9% in 2020).

In total there were 3,165 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) commencing this year, 134 more than in 2020. There were 7 more bonded places (to work in areas of workforce shortage) and 139 more non-bonded places. Domestic medical students in a bonded scheme made up 26.7% of the total domestic commencements.

Overall, females comprised 54.3% of commencing medical students, higher than the 51.0% in 2020. This gender balance pattern was very similar for international student commencements with 55.2% female versus 44.8% male, and for the bonded (51.5% female) and non-bonded CSP cohorts (54.5% female).

There were 3,807 students enrolled **in their final year** of medical school in 2021. Applying a final-year attrition rate similar to that seen in recent years (2.9%) it is anticipated that around 3,697 will graduate at the end of 2021.

### New Zealand

In 2019, New Zealand medical schools **graduated** 561 doctors, 36 more than in 2019, of which 536 were domestic students. 58.3% of all graduates were female.

This year 594 medical students **commenced** study at New Zealand medical schools, 17 more than in 2020. 39 are international students, 4 more than in 2020. Commencing numbers have been relatively stable for the last 5 years and are expected to remain so, with 590 students projected to commence in 2022.

In New Zealand in 2021, 56.2% of commencing medical students were female, a slight decrease from the 58.9% of 2020. For domestic commencements the proportion of females was 56% in 2021, down from 59.4% in 2020.

A total of 579 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, 570 are anticipated to graduate in 2021.

Note: Similarly, no adjustments have been made to the above figures on projected 2022 commencements or 2021 graduates to take account of any impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Indigenous students and graduates

In 2020, 65 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors **graduated** from medical programs in Australia, and in New Zealand 78 Māori doctors graduated. Across Australia and New Zealand there has been a 62.5% increase in the number of Indigenous graduates since 2015.

In Australia this year, 112 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students **commenced** studying medicine, which is 3.2% of domestic commencing students.

In New Zealand 100 commencing medical students were Māori, comprising 18.0% of the commencing domestic cohort – slightly lower than the 20.7% proportion seen in 2020.

A total of 412 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are **enrolled** in an Australian medical school in 2021; 2.7% of domestic enrolments. There has been consistent growth in these figures, from 286 enrolments in 2016 when the proportion was 1.97% of domestic enrolments.

In New Zealand, 491 Māori students are enrolled, comprising 18.0% of domestic students. This has increased from the 357 Māori students and 14.0% of New Zealand domestic enrolments in 2016.

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Note: No adjustments have been made to the above figures on projected 2022 commencements or 2021 graduates to take account of any impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*This Report has been updated since its original release to include the additional 34 students who commenced in Bond Medical School's September intake.*

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

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

P: +61 2 8084 6557

## Graduates in 2020

### Australian Medical School Graduates in 2020

A total of 3,656 medical students graduated from Australian medical schools in 2020, of which 3,066 (83.9%) were domestic and 590 (16.1%) international students. In 2020, the largest cohort (31.7%) graduated from NSW/ACT medical schools, followed by Victoria (24.8%) and Queensland (22.7%).

**Table 1. Australian medical schools graduating numbers**

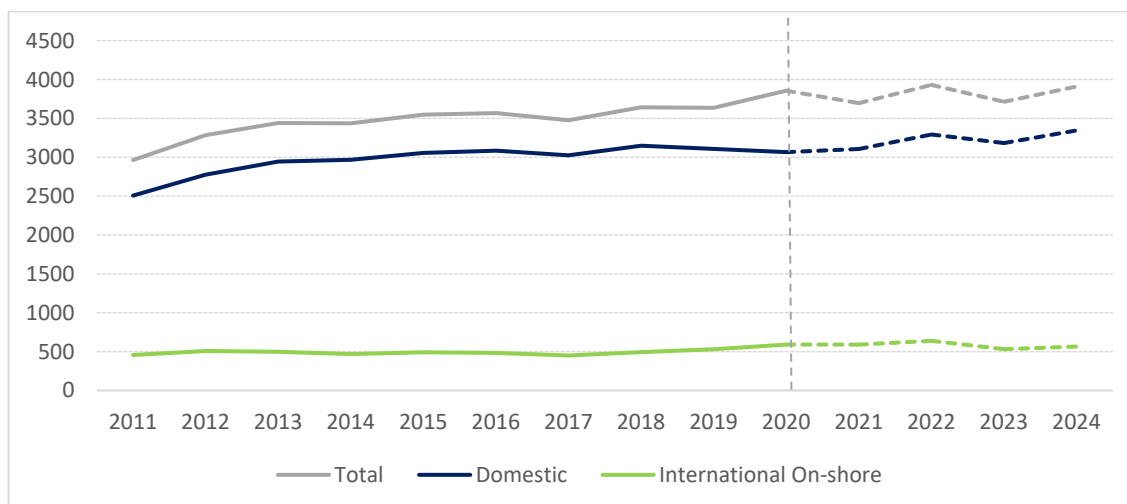
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Domestic</b>	2507	2777	2944	2968	3055	3085	3025	3149	3107	3066
<b>International</b>	457	507	497	469	492	484	450	494	530	590
<b>Total</b>	2964	3284	3441	3437	3547	3569	3475	3643	3637	3656

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 2021 to 2024; 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%)
<b>2021</b>	3,807	3,697 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2022</b>	4,048	3,931 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2023</b>	3,825	3,714 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2024</b>	4,027	3,910 <i>estimated</i>

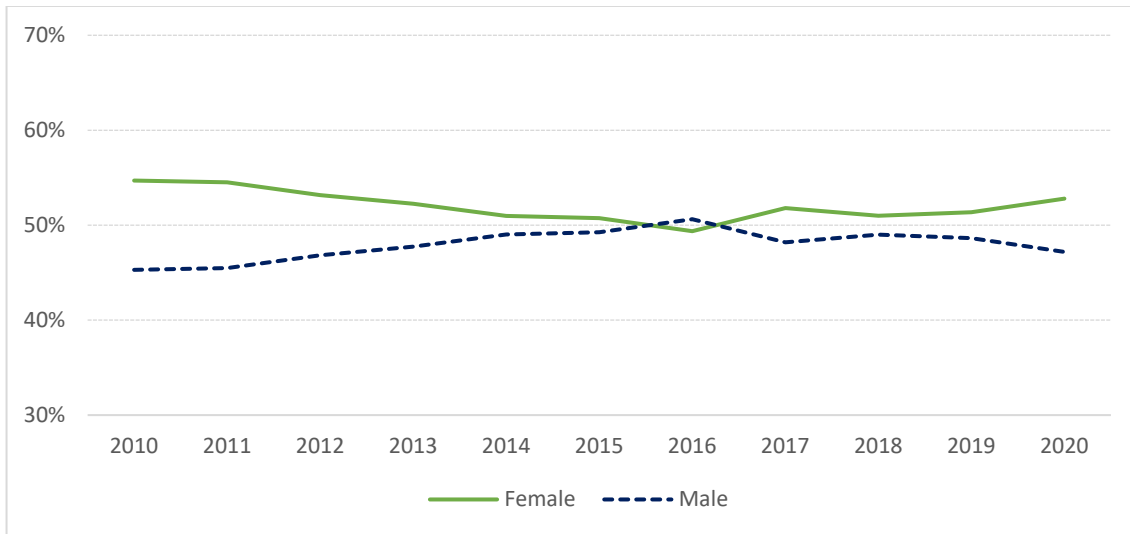
Following the slowed growth in commencing students, the numbers of graduating students has started to plateau and is expected to remain fairly stable in the coming years.

**Figure 1. Australian medical school graduates – by year (projected for 2021 onwards)**



\* Dashed lines indicate projected figures

Figure 2. All Australian medical school graduates – by gender



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

## New Zealand Medical School Graduates in 2020

A total of 561 medical students graduated from New Zealand medical schools in 2020.

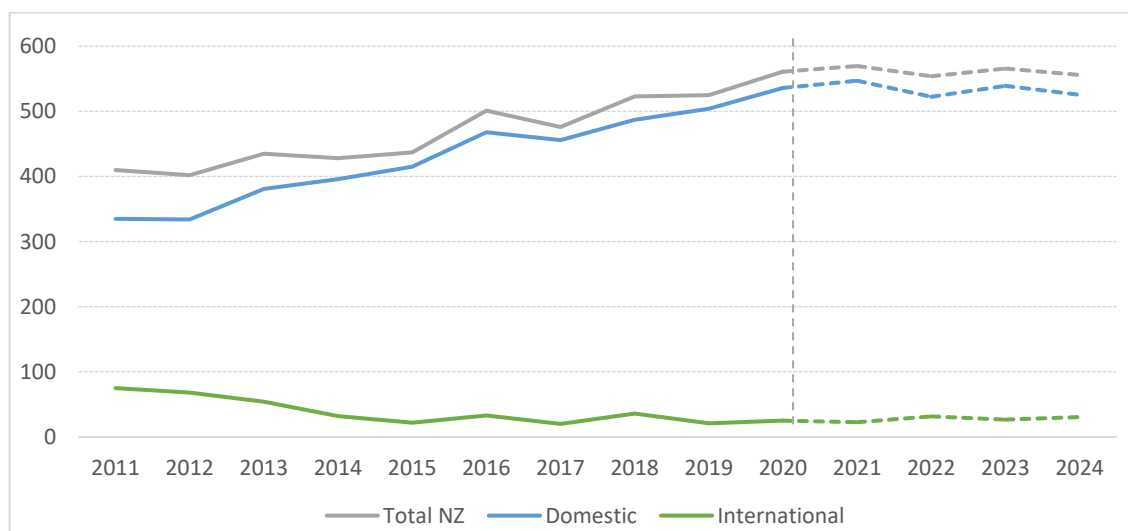
**Table 2. New Zealand medical school graduating numbers**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Domestic</b>	335	334	381	396	415	468	456	487	504	536
<b>International</b>	75	68	54	32	22	33	20	36	21	25
<b>Total</b>	410	402	435	428	437	501	476	523	525	561

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 2021 to 2024; 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.*

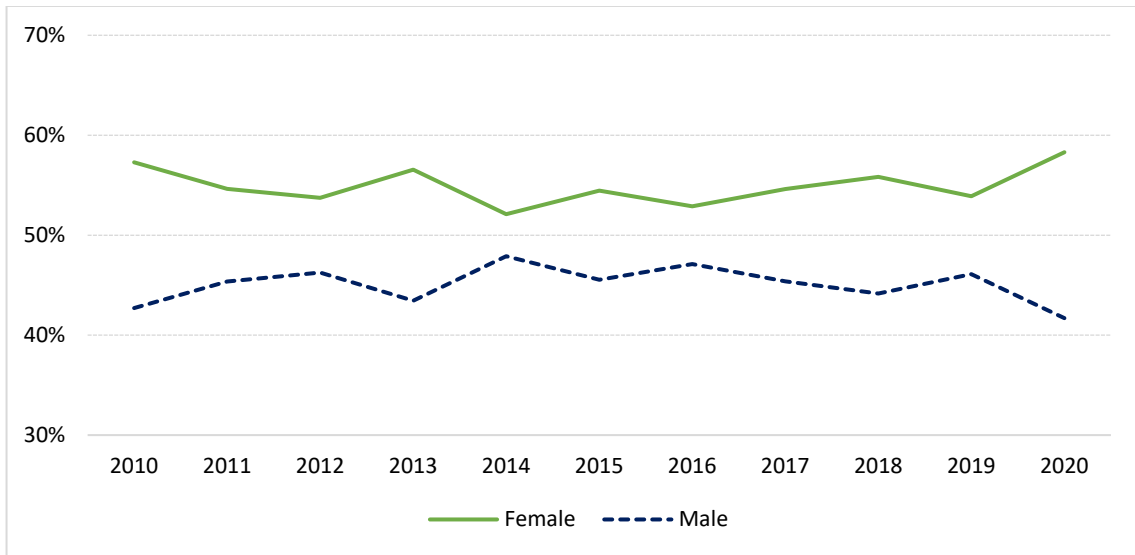
<u>Graduating Year</u>	<u>Students enrolled in cohorts graduating that year</u>	<u>Students estimated to graduate (after applying <i>single</i> reduction of 1.6%)</u>
<b>2021</b>	579	570 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2022</b>	563	554 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2023</b>	575	566 <i>estimated</i>
<b>2024</b>	565	556 <i>estimated</i>

**Figure 3. New Zealand medical school graduates – by year (projected for 2021 onwards)**



\* Dashed lines indicate projected numbers

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



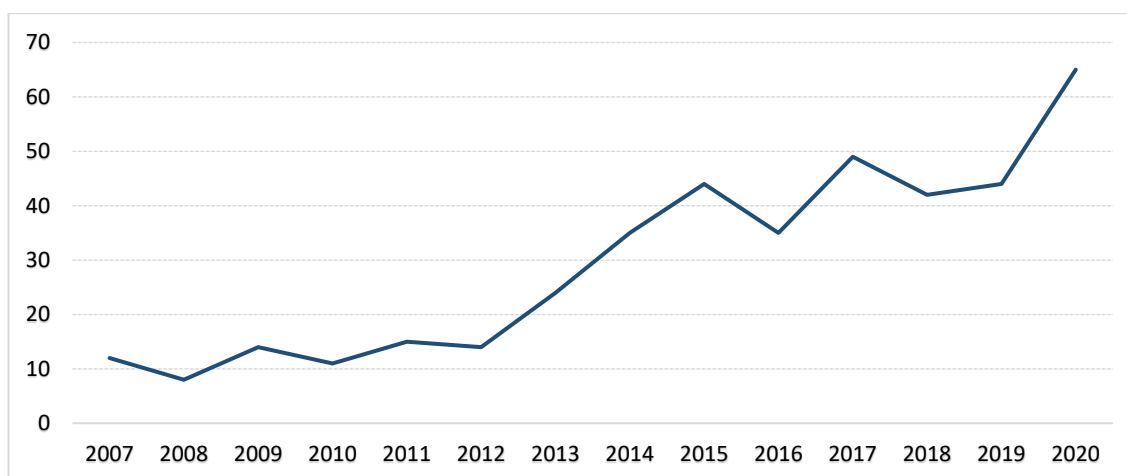
## Indigenous Graduates in 2020

In 2020, 65 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students graduated from medical programs in Australia, and 78 Māori students graduated from New Zealand schools.

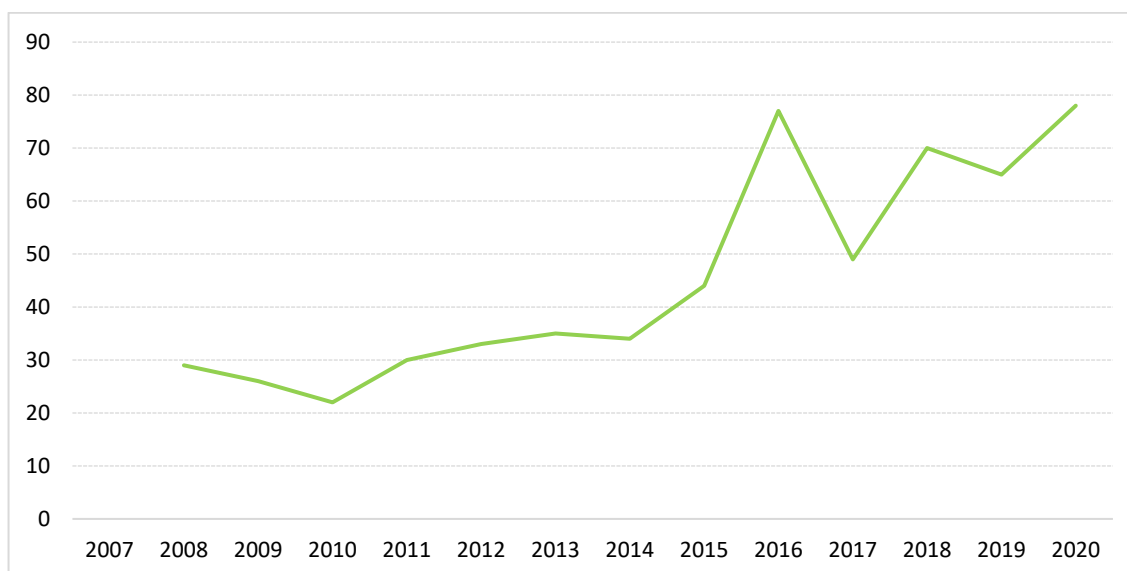
**Table 3. Graduating Indigenous medical students – by year**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
AUS	12	8	14	11	15	14	24	35	44	35	49	42	44	65
NZ	..	29	26	22	30	33	35	34	44	77	49	70	65	78

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



**Figure 6. Graduating Māori students from New Zealand medical schools**



## 2021 Commencements

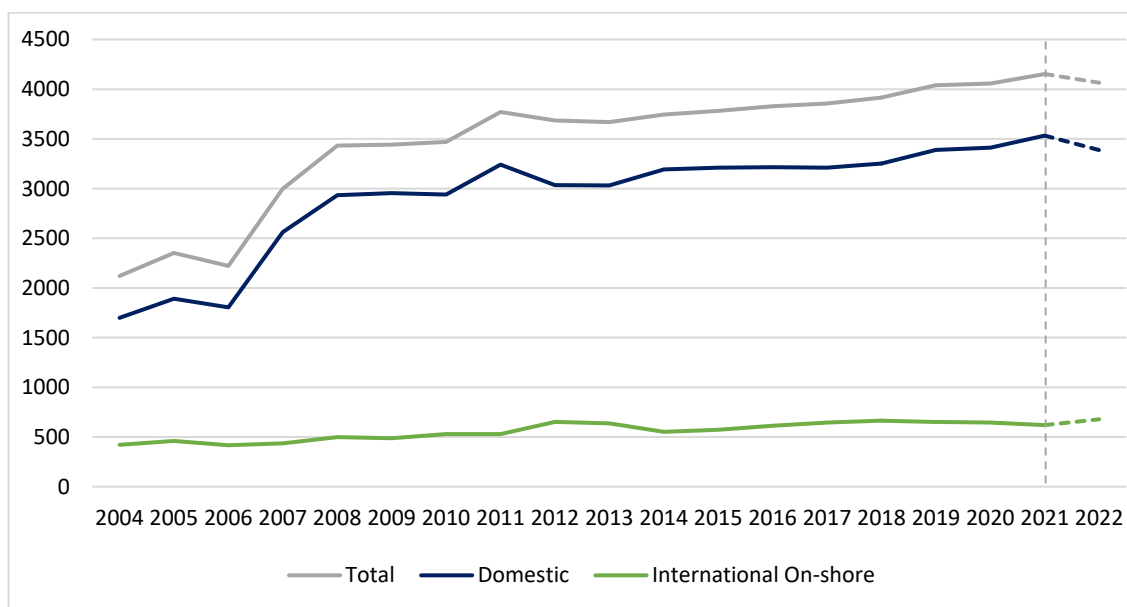
### Australian Medical School Commencements

In 2021 there were 4,153 commencing medical students in Australia, a 2.4% increase on 2020 numbers (Table 4). Commencements comprised 3,533 domestic and 620 international students. Projections are for 4,065 students to commence in 2022.

**Table 4. Students commencing at Australian medical schools**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Domestic</b>	1699	1892	1805	2562	2934	2955	2940	3241	3035	3032	3193	3210	3215	3211	3252	3389	3411	3533
<b>International</b>	421	460	417	436	499	487	529	529	651	637	552	572	613	645	664	651	646	620
<b>Total</b>	2120	2352	2222	2998	3433	3442	3469	3770	3686	3669	3745	3782	3828	3856	3916	4040	4057	4153

**Figure 7. Students commencing at Australian medical schools**



\* Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2022

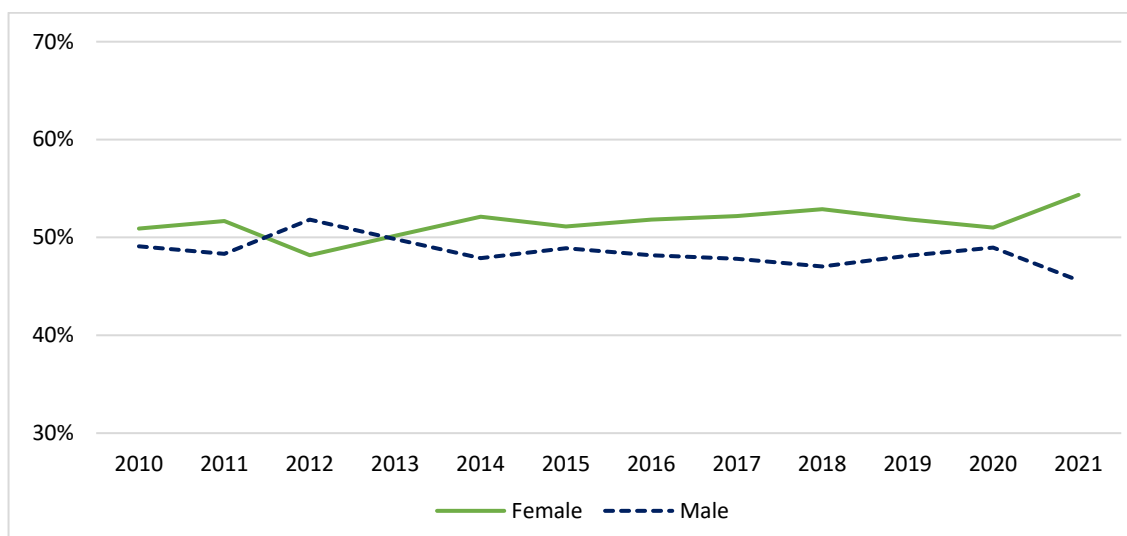


## Gender

Female students accounted for 54.3% of commencing students in Australian medical schools in 2021, an increase on 2020 when the gender ratio was more balanced at 51.0% female. More female than male students occurred for all entry schemes except for the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) where females comprised 44.0%. For the other entry schemes the female gender proportion was: non-bonded CSPs 54.4%; bonded CSPs 51.5%; domestic full fee paying (excluding NTMP) 60.1%; international full fee-paying: 55.2%.

*Note: a small number of students at Australian medical schools identified as non-binary, intersex or unspecified. Due to the low numbers involved, these have been omitted from tables and figures reporting counts by gender.*

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



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

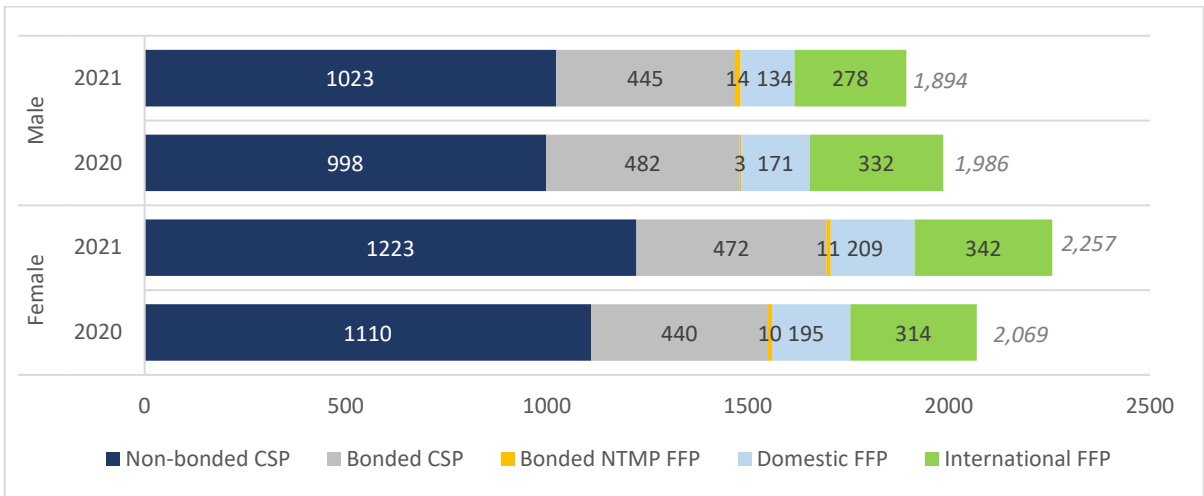
## Entry schemes

**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
<b>2021</b>	1223	1023	472	445	11	14	209	134	342	278	2257	1894
<b>2020</b>	1110	998	440	482	10	3	195	171	314	332	2069	1986
<b>2019</b>	1155	1014	424	467	12	10	169	137	335	316	2095	1944

*Note: these counts do not include 5 students who identified as non-binary / intersex / unspecified*

**Figure 9. Australian medical school commencements – by gender and entry scheme in 2021**

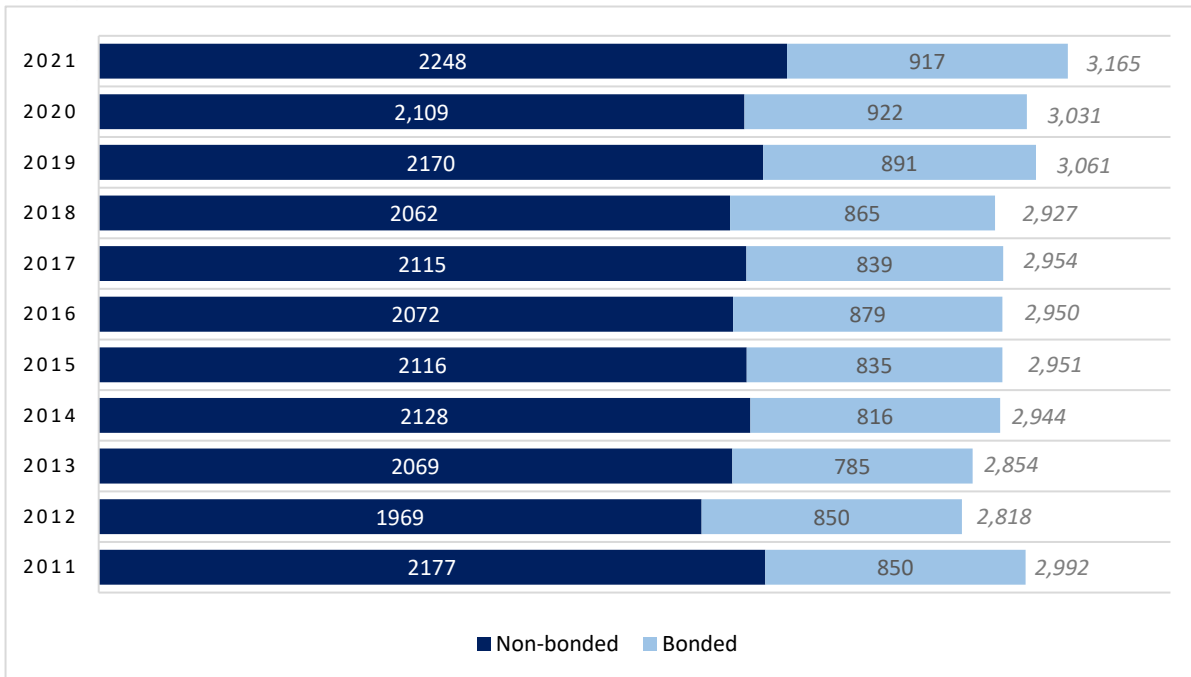


Note: these counts do not include 4 students who identified as non-binary / intersex / unspecified

### Commonwealth Supported Places

In Australia, the total number of commencing Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) increased by 134 to 3,165. The proportion of commencing domestic students in the Commonwealth’s Bonded Medical Places (BMP) scheme – in which the participant accepts a CSP and agrees to work in an area of workforce shortage for a period of time – remained steady (26.7% in 2021 versus 27.0% in 2020).

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



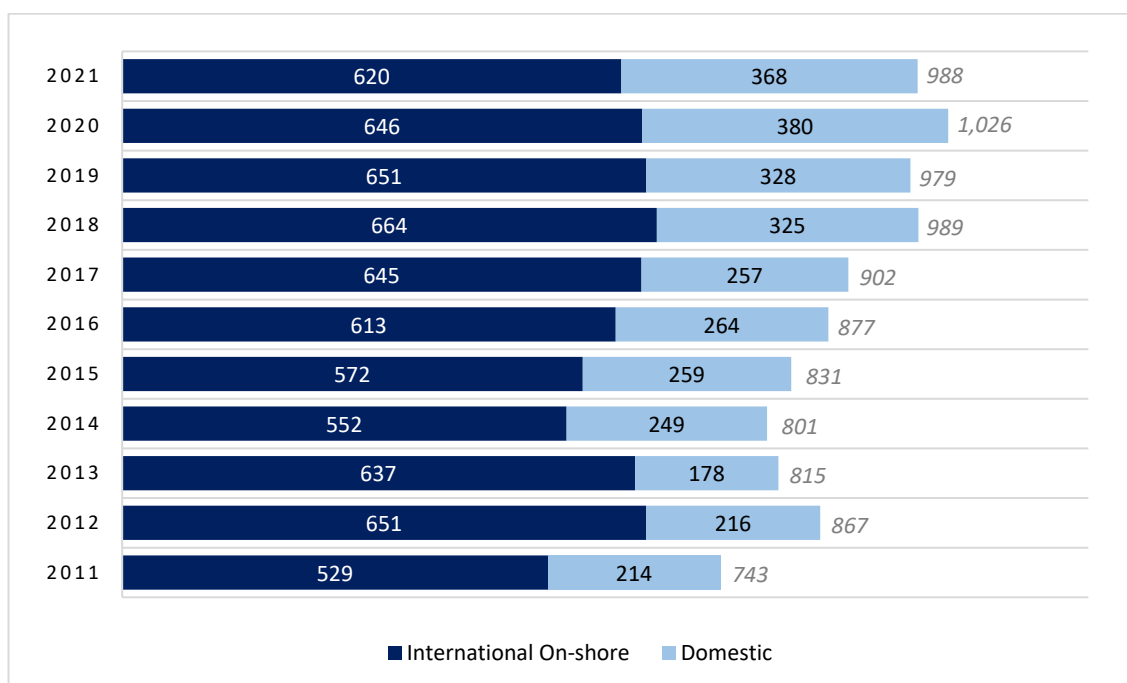
Note: These numbers do not include the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) bonded places

### Full Fee Paying students

Across medical schools in Australia in 2021, 10.4% of domestic commencing students were full fee paying (FFP) – down from the 11.1% observed in 2020.

The proportion of commencing international students compared to total commencing students decreased slightly (14.9% in 2021 versus 15.9% in 2020).

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

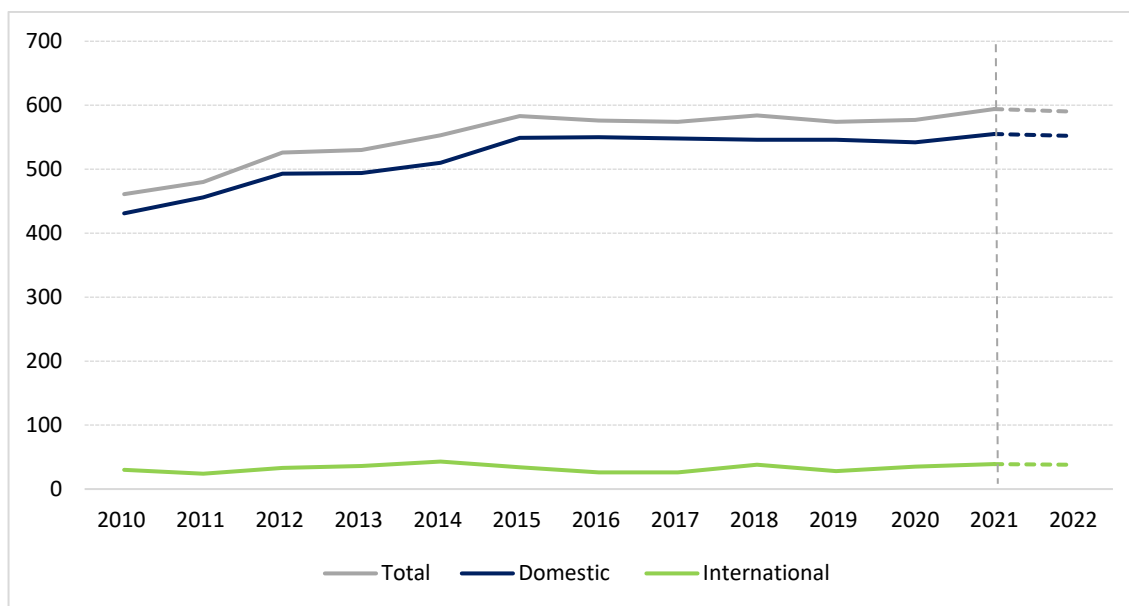
## New Zealand Medical School Commencements

In New Zealand there were 555 domestic and 39 international commencing medical students in 2021. After a gradual increase of total commencements from 2010 to 2015, numbers have plateaued. It is projected that 590 students will commence medical studies in New Zealand in 2022.

**Table 6. Students commencing at New Zealand medical schools**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Domestic</b>	431	456	493	494	510	549	550	548	546	546	542	555
<b>International</b>	30	24	33	36	43	34	26	26	38	28	35	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>594</b>

**Figure 12. Commencements at New Zealand medical schools**



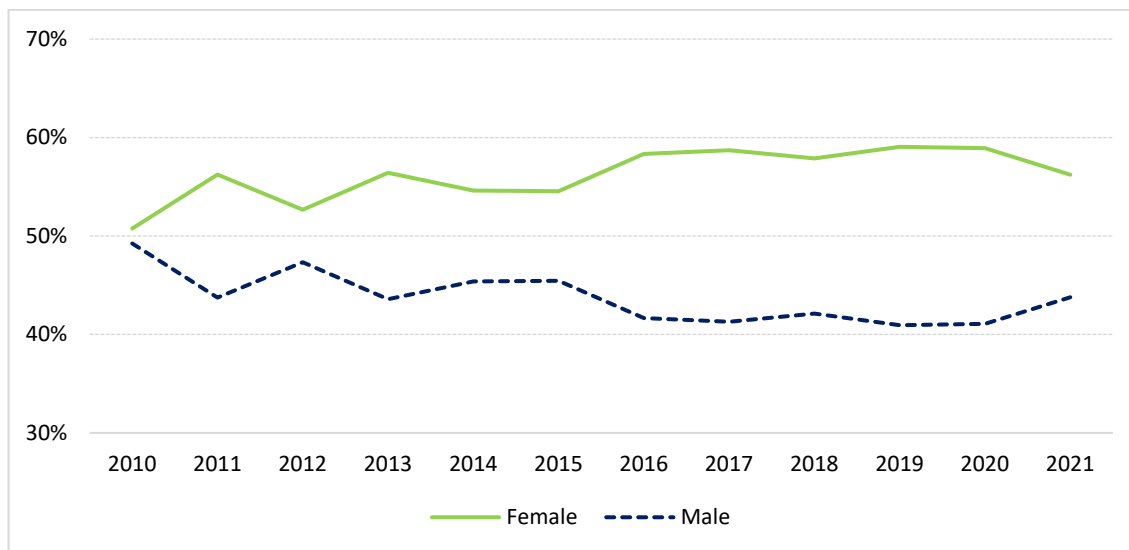
\* Dashed lines indicate projected figures for 2022

Commencing medical student numbers in New Zealand have remained static since 2015

## Gender

In 2021, the proportion of female commencements at New Zealand medical schools dropped slightly from 58.9% in 2020 to 56.2% in 2021. The proportion of female commencements has remained above 56% since 2016.

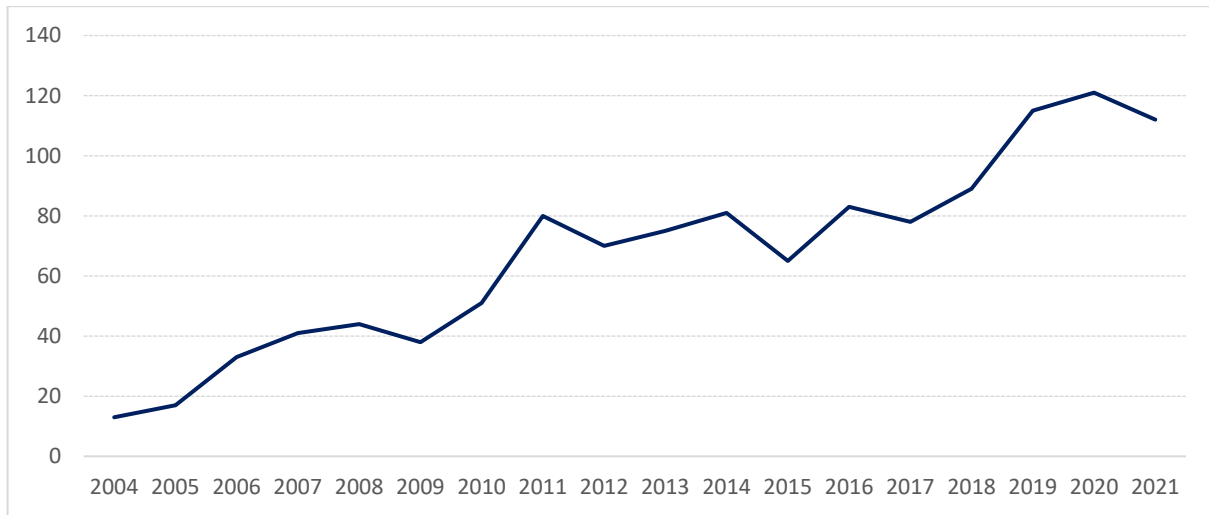
**Figure 13. All commencements across New Zealand medical schools – by gender**



## Indigenous commencements

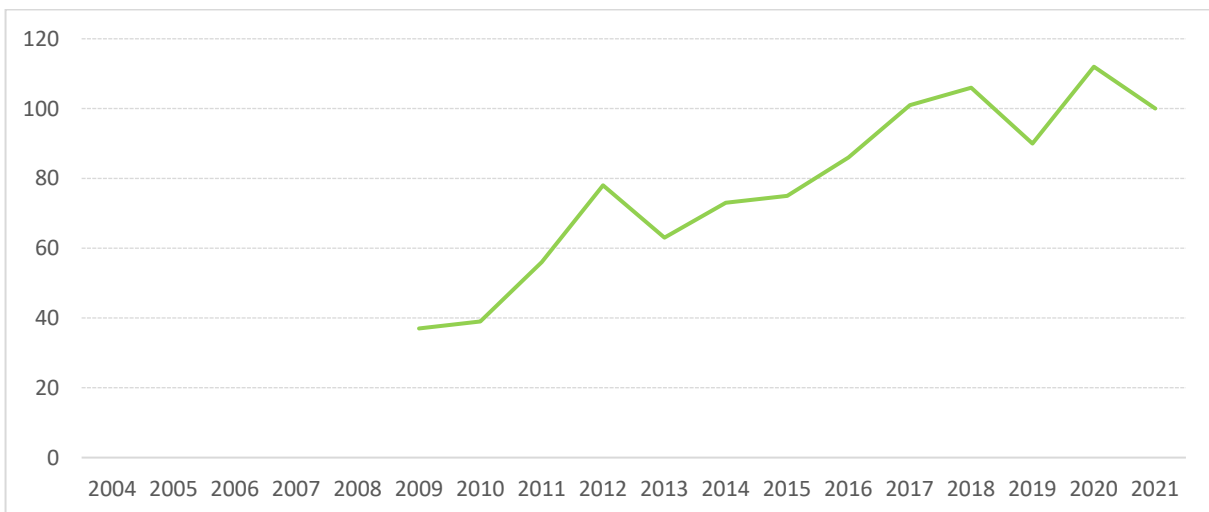
In 2021, 112 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students started in year one of medicine, which is 3.2% of domestic commencing medical students in Australia. While this represents a 7.4% decrease from 2020, numbers have increased 34.9% since 2016.

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



In New Zealand there were 100 commencing Māori medical students in 2021, comprising 18.0% of the domestic cohort.

**Figure 15. Māori student commencements at New Zealand medical schools**



Indigenous medical student commencements have more than doubled since 2009

## 2021 Total Enrolments

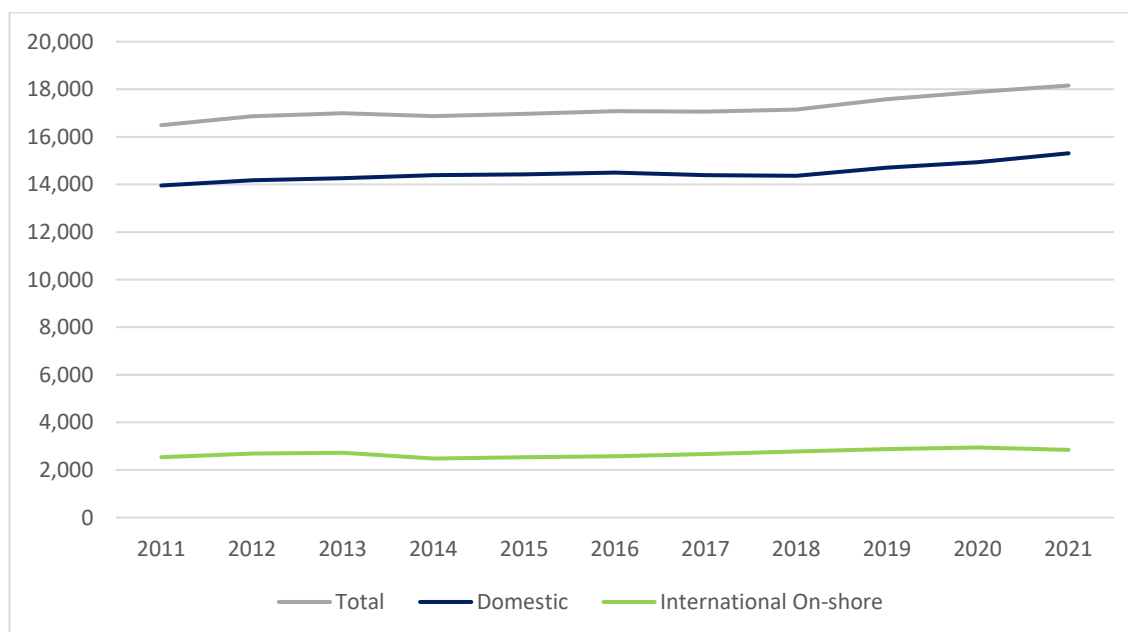
### Australian Medical School Total Enrolments

In 2021 there were a total of 18,157 students enrolled in Australian medical schools; comprising 15,310 (84.3%) domestic and 2,847 (15.7%) international students.

**Table 7. Students enrolled in Australian medical schools**

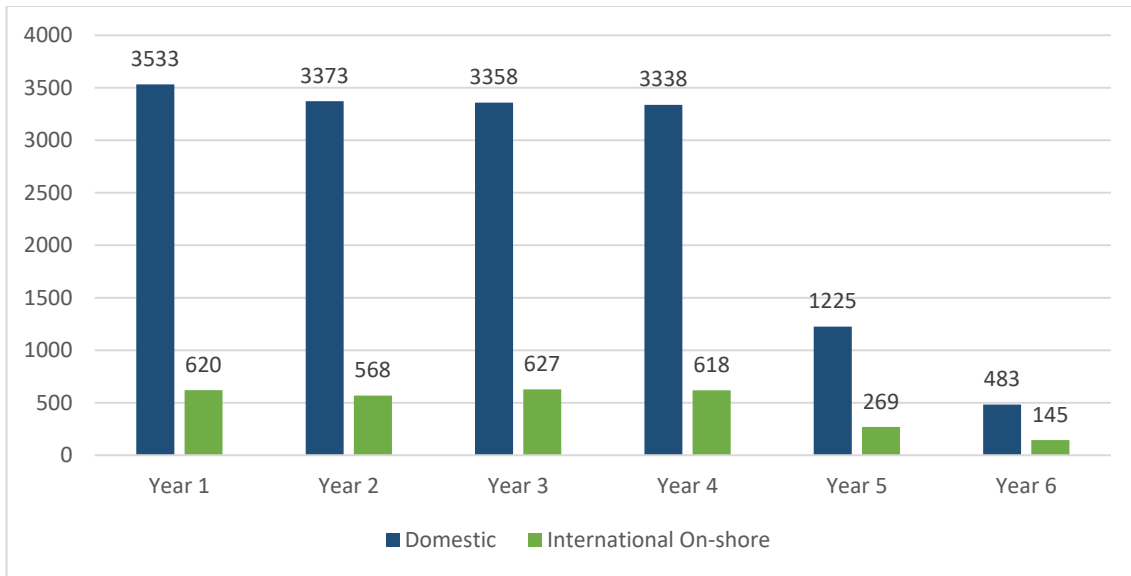
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Domestic</b>	13,956	14,177	14,266	14,392	14,424	14,498	14,388	14,365	14,708	14,938	15,310
<b>International</b>	2,535	2,691	2,728	2,483	2,540	2,580	2,671	2,781	2,878	2,946	2,847
<b>Total</b>	16,491	16,868	16,994	16,875	16,964	17,078	17,059	17,146	17,586	17,884	18,157

**Figure 16. Students enrolled in Australian medical schools**



Enrolments at Australia medical schools in 2021 have increased 6.8% in the last 8 years

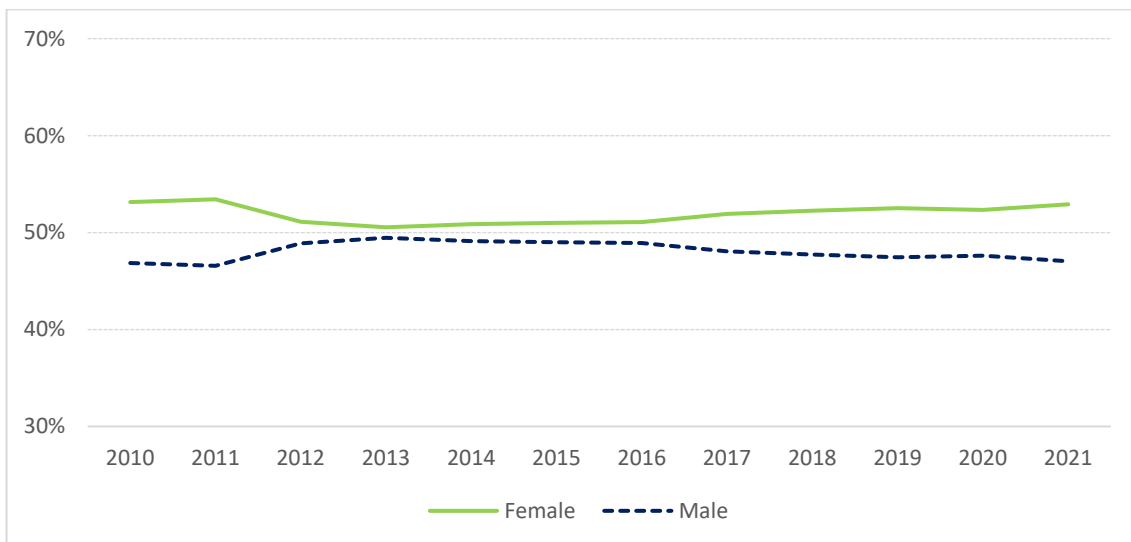
**Figure 17. Students enrolled in Australian medical schools – by year of course in 2021**



## Gender

Of all students enrolled in a medical program in Australia, the gender balance marginally increased to 52.9%, and has continued to remain above 52.0% 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 / intersex / unspecified*



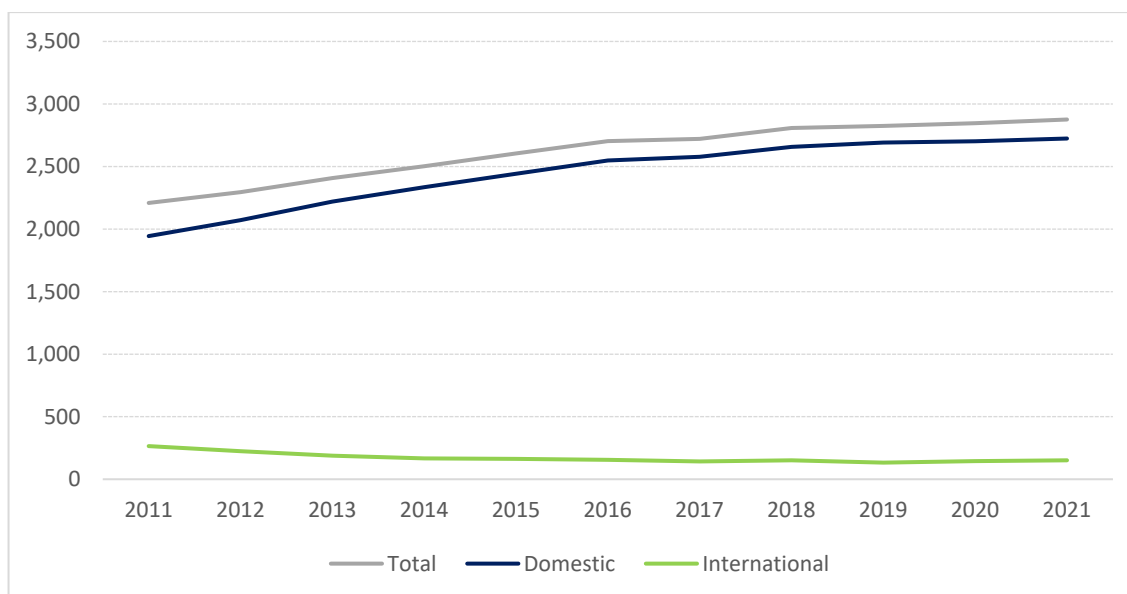
## New Zealand Medical Schools Total Enrolments

In New Zealand medical schools in 2021 there were 2,876 total enrolments, comprising 2,724 domestic and 152 international students (94.7% and 5.3% of enrolments respectively).

**Table 8. Students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools**

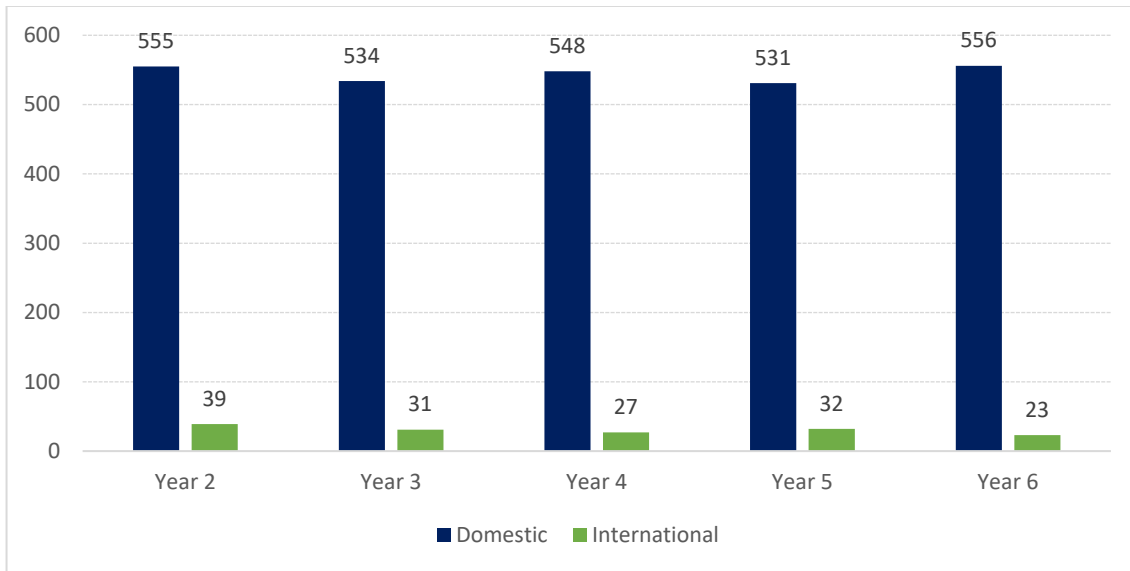
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Domestic</b>	1,944	2,071	2,220	2,335	2,442	2,548	2,578	2,657	2,692	2,702	2,724
<b>International</b>	265	224	188	167	163	155	143	151	133	145	152
<b>Total</b>	2,209	2,295	2,408	2,502	2,605	2,703	2,721	2,808	2,825	2,847	2,876

**Figure 19. Students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools**



New Zealand enrolments are plateauing after a period of growth

**Figure 20. New Zealand medical school enrolments – by year of course in 2021**

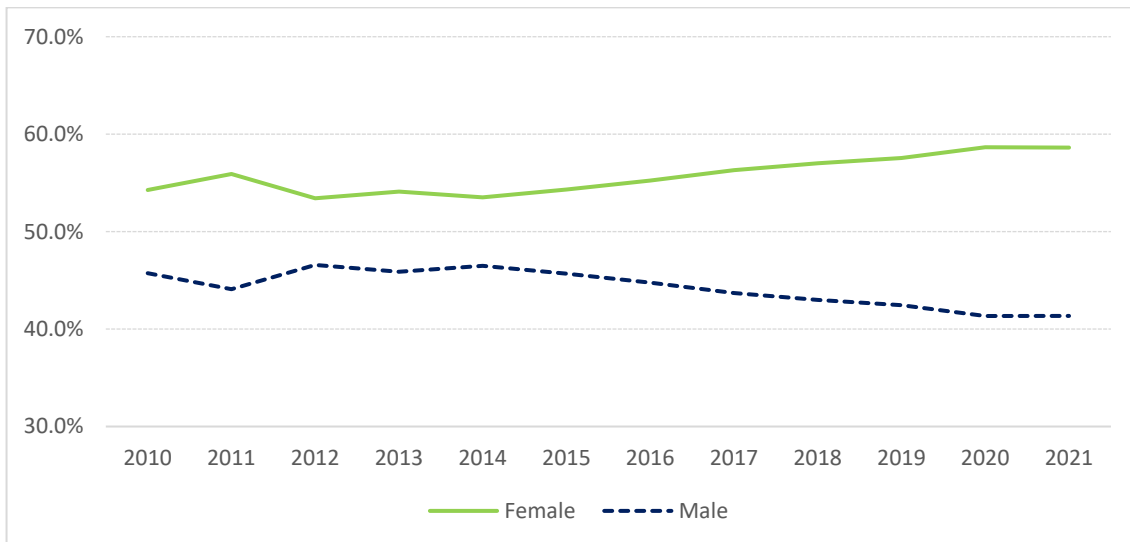


*Note: In New Zealand, students commence studying medicine in Year 2, as the first year is a foundation year in a Biomedical or Health Sciences course.*

## Gender

In 2021, 58.6% of students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools were female – little different from the 58.7% observed in 2020. New Zealand Medical schools continue to have a higher proportion of female students than Australian medical schools.

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



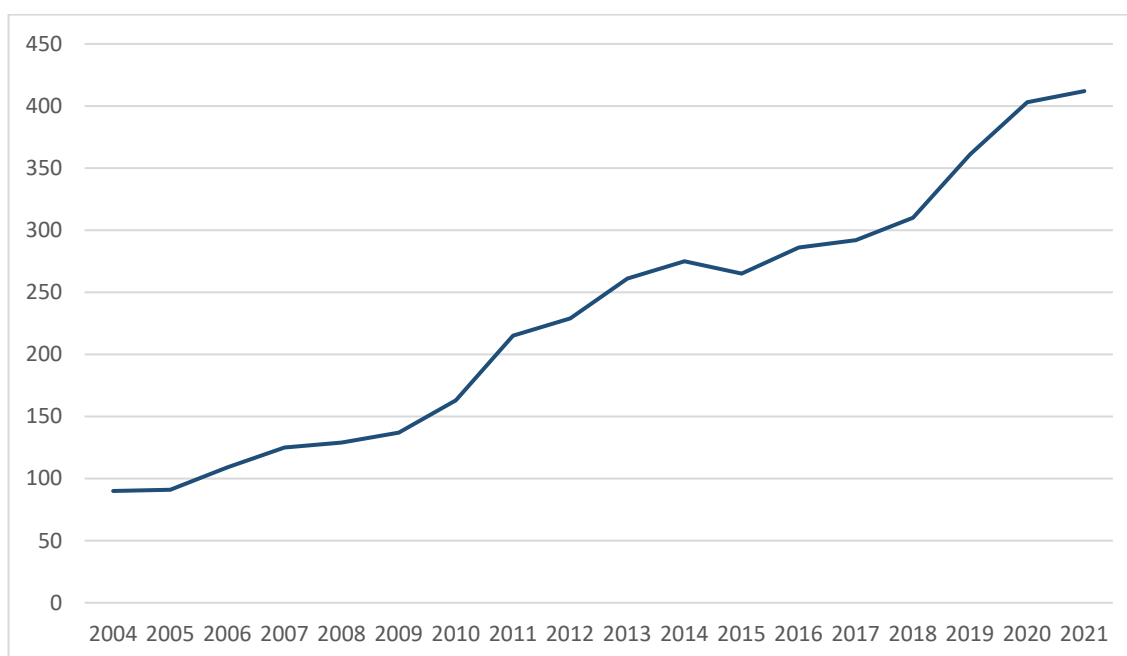
## Indigenous Total Enrolments

In **Australian** medical schools in 2021, there were 412 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled (2.7% of domestic enrolments).

**Table 9. Enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students**

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
90	91	109	125	129	137	163	215	229	261	275	265	286	292	310	361	403	412

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



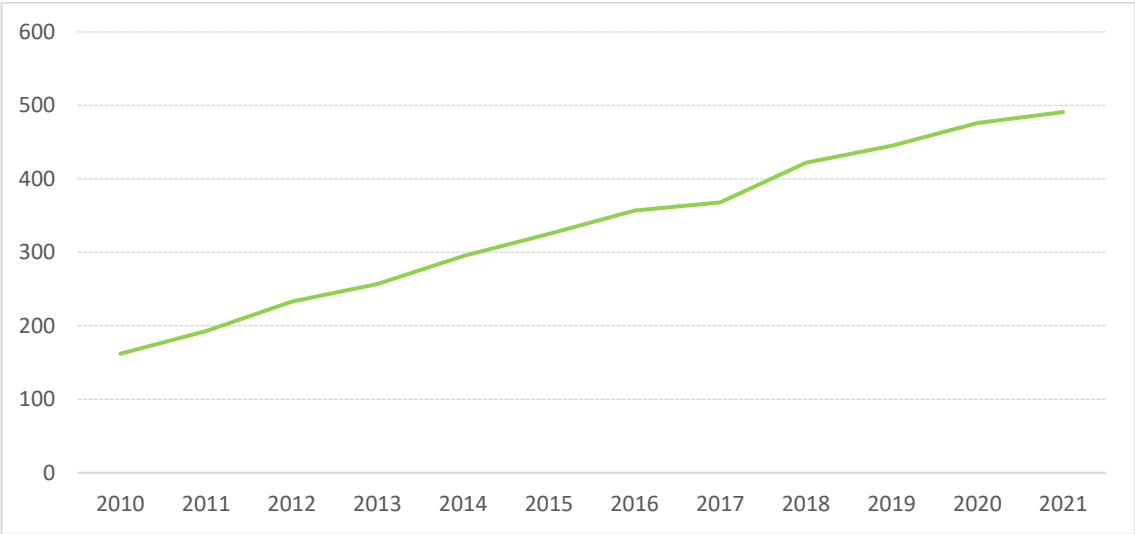
The last 3 years has seen a 32% increase in the number of enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students

In **New Zealand** medical schools in 2021 there were 491 Māori students enrolled (18.0% of domestic enrolments).

**Table 10. Enrolled Māori medical students**

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
162	193	233	257	295	325	357	368	422	445	476	491

**Figure 23. Māori students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools**



The number of Māori students enrolled in New Zealand medical schools has increased more than 300% since 2010

## BACKGROUND

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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.

Student Statistics [Data](#) and [Snapshot Reports](#) are available from the Medical Deans' [website](#).

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Sydney NSW 2000

<https://medicaldeans.org.au/>  
[admin@medicaldeans.org.au](mailto:admin@medicaldeans.org.au)