

4 December 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Additional medical students for rural and regional Australia welcomed

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand President, Professor Michelle Leech AM, today welcomed the announcement by the Australian Government of an additional 160 medical students who will be trained in rural locations each year, beginning in 2024.

“The investment in facilities and infrastructure, along with the new Commonwealth Supported Places, is a very clear message from the Australian Government of the important role education and training plays in building the rural and regional medical workforce in Australia,” said Professor Leech.

“We have seen for ourselves over the years that those doctors who train and live in rural and regional areas are much more likely to remain and set up their practice there.”

Data collected through the annual Medical Schools Outcome Database survey shows that spending more than one year on a rural placement significantly increases medical graduates’ preference to work outside capital cities. Among 2022 MSOD respondents, just under 75% of respondents who spent more than one year on rural [placement](#) noted a preference to work outside of capital cities. This compares to 30% of respondents who spent up to six months on rural placement who indicated a preference to work outside of a capital city.

“On behalf of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, I congratulate those medical schools who have received the additional places,” said Professor Leech. “The next steps will be to ensure that these young graduates have the opportunities to spend their early training years in rural community and general practice settings.”

END

Contact: admin@medicaldeans.org.au 0499 660 346

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc. (Medical Deans) is the peak body representing professional entry-level medical education, training and research in Australia and New Zealand. The organisation’s membership comprises the Deans of Australia’s 22 medical schools and the two New Zealand schools.

As well as having an extensive representative and advocacy role in the advancement of health and education, Medical Deans auspice and manage a number of projects in relation to medical education and the medical workforce, including the Medical Schools Outcomes Database, Indigenous health and the LIME Network, graduate competencies and assessment, clinical supervision, student health and wellbeing, research, and social accountability.

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