

24 February 2025

A welcome investment in medical school places

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) has welcomed the Government's announcement of a \$48.8 million investment in additional medical school places, as part of a \$617 million package to grow the primary care workforce.

"Medical Deans is very pleased to see that the Government has committed to increasing medical school places as part of its broader strategy to increase GP and rural health services for Australians," said the President of Medical Deans, Professor Michelle Leech.

The Government has committed to introducing an additional 100 new medical school places per year from 2026, rising to 150 places by 2028. It will also fund an additional 200 junior doctor training rotations in primary health care per year, increasing to 400 from 2028. Specialist training places in General Practice and Rural Generalism will also be substantially boosted, rising to 2,000 per year by 2028. The Opposition has announced it will match this investment.

"This new package recognises the connected training pathway running from medical school to specialist GP training, and the opportunity to rotate into General Practice early in the post graduate phase will be very powerful for junior doctors. Being able to see the breadth, skill and impact of GP care at this formative time will have a huge influence on future career choice. Coupled with the support for GP and Rural Generalist specialist training, this is a huge step towards shaping the future healthcare and medical workforce we need in Australia," Professor Leech said.

Professor Leech added that it will be important to ensure the new training places for junior doctors do not displace medical students from training in primary care. "The focus must be on clear and continuous training pathways from medical school to General Practice and Rural Generalism, with medical students and junior doctors learning from their peers all the way along."

In its Pre-Budget Submission to Government, Medical Deans called for 1,000 new medical school places to be introduced over four years through a competitive tender process: the new places would be awarded to existing medical schools able to demonstrate their capacity to graduate doctors more likely to choose rural or General Practice.

The submission also called for reform of the Primary Care (Teaching) Payment for medical students: an increase in rate of the of payment to General Practices for teaching medical students; and extending these payments to include multidisciplinary teams within General Practices (including nurses and allied health professionals as well as GPs).

Contact: CEO Kate Lynch at klynch@medicaldeans.org.au or 0432 500 308

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc. represents and supports the 24 medical schools across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in their cutting-edge medical education, work-integrated training, and research to recruit, develop and nurture outstanding medical graduates to enable our communities to continue to access world-class health services.

Medical Deans [annual survey of medical graduates](#) provides valuable information and insights on the make-up of our future doctors, including demographics, education, experience, and future career preferences.

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