

29 April 2026

Anita Hobson-Powell appointed CEO of Medical Deans

The Executive of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand today announced the appointment of Ms Anita Hobson-Powell to the position of CEO, commencing on 1 June 2026.

Anita is an accomplished leader with extensive experience across membership organisations and government. Most recently she worked as the Chief Allied Health Officer for the Australian Government, providing leadership and advice in the development of health system policies and reforms, including co-development of Australia's first National Allied Health Workforce Strategy. Anita served as a member of the Medical Workforce Advisory Committee while in this role.

In her 17-year tenure as CEO of Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA), Anita transformed the organisation by leading cultural and governance reforms that positioned ESSA as a trusted national self-accrediting health professional association. Her financial stewardship was instrumental in securing diverse funding streams that reduced the organisation's reliance on membership fees, and ESSA grew from two staff to 52 staff by the time of her departure.

Anita has served as chair, non-executive director, and company secretary across multiple boards, including the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions and Allied Health Professions Australia. In these roles she led governance reviews, modernised constitutions, and developed risk frameworks to safeguard organisational integrity.

Anita brings to Medical Deans a passion for translating strategic vision into operational excellence, while maintaining members' and stakeholders' confidence and engagement. She has collaborated closely with stakeholders across medicine, nursing and allied health, and is widely respected for her advocacy experience and inclusive style. We are delighted to welcome her as the new CEO.

President, Professor Michelle Leech

Vice President, Professor Kirsty Forrest

Please direct all enquiries to admin@medicaldeans.org.au

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/>