

NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2026

**2021—2025 DATA
FROM FINAL YEAR STUDENTS
AT AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS**

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2026

BACKGROUND

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) is an annual national data collection conducted by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans). The data are collected through an annual survey administered to final year medical students from all medical schools across Australia. The survey collects information on final year demographics, previous and current education, medical school experiences, rural background, and career intentions including practice location and speciality preferences.

The MSOD project commenced in 2008 and has been conducted annually providing a valuable, unique, national resource of comprehensive data and insights on Australian medical final year students. The MSOD currently contains over 36,300 participants¹ and is stored and managed by Medical Deans.

This report does not incorporate data from New Zealand medical schools. A similar project is conducted in Aotearoa, New Zealand, by the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with similar questions and with the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Health. The New Zealand MSOD reports can be found on the University of Otago's website at

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/faculty-medicine/education/mbchb/about/accountability/external/msod-project>.

Medical Deans would like to express our thanks to all the final year medical students over the years who have taken the time to provide these data and contribute to the development of this resource, which informs and shapes the development of informed, evidence-based, and effective medical education and health workforce policy. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian Government through its funding contribution to the production of the MSOD.

Please note: this survey is intended to capture information from students completing their medical school studies. Therefore, for any respondents who repeated their final year, only their most recent response is reported, and any earlier responses are removed from last year's data.

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1. A further 10,000 responses are also held from previously run surveys at the point of students' commencement at medical school and during their postgraduate years.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the findings that were captured by the Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) 2025 survey, presenting data from the 5 years 2021 to 2025.

The MSOD survey was administered to final year students in medical schools across Australia in the last quarter of 2025, with a 52.2 per cent response rate (2,084 respondents from a cohort of 3,994²).

Demographics

The demographic characteristics of the respondents remained broadly consistent with prior years:

- The survey usually has a higher response rate from females, and this year was no different: 53.3 per cent of the respondents were female (compared with 52.3 per cent in 2025).
- The percentage of respondents aged under 25 decreased in 2025 to 42.0 per cent (from 46.3 per cent in 2024), while the percentage of respondents aged 25-29 increased to 45.1 per cent (from 42.3 per cent in 2024).
- Respondents with partners were again in the majority (51.2 per cent). Only 4.0 per cent of respondents had dependent children, and only 2.7 per cent reported having other dependants; these proportions have remained relatively consistent since 2013.
- Over 36 per cent of domestic students and nearly 80 per cent of international students reported speaking a language other than English.

Specialist Preferences

Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician and General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) continue to consistently rank as the top two preferred specialties:

- In 2025, Adult Medicine was preferred by 16.0 per cent of respondents (15.5 per cent of domestic students vs. 19.4 per cent of international students), while General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) was preferred by 15.6 per cent of respondents (16.8 per cent of domestic students vs 7.1 per cent of international students). Anaesthesia and Surgery continued to be popular - preferred by 14.3 and 13.5 per cent of all respondents respectively.
- The top five factors cited as influencing choice of specialty remain unchanged from the previous year – “Alignment with personal values”; “Atmosphere/work culture”; “Intellectual content of the specialty”; “Experience of specialty as a medical student” and “General medical school experiences”. The least influential factors continue to be “Perceived prestige of the discipline” and “Availability of work for partner”.

Rural location preferences

In terms of their future careers, 29.9 per cent of respondents indicated a preference to work in a non-metropolitan³ area – 31.4 per cent of domestic students and 17.4 per cent of international. Overall, domestic students were more likely than international students to want to work in a rural/remote community location⁴ – 15.8 per cent versus 3.6 per cent.

The MSOD results reflect findings from other data⁵ that students from a rural background express higher levels of desire to practice in rural or regional locations. Nearly 40 per cent of domestic student respondents from rural backgrounds⁶ preferred to work in a rural town or remote community versus

2. [Medical Deans' Data Dashboard](#)

3. Non-metropolitan region defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 2-7.

4. Rural/Remote community location defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 3-7.

5. See e.g., McGrail MR et al. (2023) 'The pathway to more rural doctors: the role of universities', *Medical Journal of Australia* 219(53), pp. s8-s13, <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.52021>

6. Rural background classification based on self reporting by survey respondents.

6.0 per cent of those from a non-rural background. This is consistent for both domestic and international students.

Rural placements and membership of rural clubs continue to be strongly associated with intention for future rural practice.

- Of those respondents who undertook a rural placement for more than a year, 42.6 per cent expressed a preference for practice in a rural town or remote community. The comparative figures are 27.5 per cent for those where the duration was 6 to 12 months, 6.7 per cent where it was up to 6 months, and 3.3 per cent for those not undertaking a rural placement.
- Students who belonged to a rural club were six times more likely to express a preference for working in a non-metropolitan location.

Other career interests

The MSOD tests interest in the priority areas of Indigenous health and teaching/research:

- Almost half of graduates expressed an interest in Indigenous health being a part of their future medical career. Interest was markedly higher amongst domestic students compared with international students, and amongst students from a rural background compared to those from a non-rural background.
- Levels of interest in a career that involves teaching and research have been consistently high over the years, and 2025 was no exception, with 80.2 per cent interested in teaching being part of their future and 56.0 per cent interested in research (compared with 81.9 and 58.4 per cent respectively in 2024). Domestic respondents continued to express greater interest in teaching than international students (81.3 vs 72.3 per cent), while international students expressed greater interest in research than domestic students (58.5 vs 55.7 per cent).

Satisfaction with program

Levels of satisfaction with the medical program at universities increased slightly: 77.4 per cent of respondents indicated they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they were satisfied with their course. The percentage of those dissatisfied or very dissatisfied decreased to 8.4 per cent. International students continued to express less satisfaction with their medical program than domestic students.

In contrast, the proportion of students who agreed overall that their basic medical degree was preparing them well for work as an intern decreased slightly, from 80.1 to 79.3 per cent. The proportion disagreeing or strongly disagreeing remained steady at 5.2 per cent.

Note: Data on the full 2025 medical student cohort, as referenced in this Report, is accessible from the [Medical Deans' Data Dashboard](#).

SECTION 1: MSOD SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Medical school respondents

In 2025, there were 3,994 final year students across all Australian medical schools, of which 3,840 graduated (96.1 per cent). Approximately 52.2 per cent of the cohort, or 2,084 students, responded to the MSOD survey (Table 1).

Table 1. Respondents by medical school – All students

| School attended | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| The University of Adelaide | 8 | 0.4 | 27 | 1.4 | 104 | 5.0 | 82 | 3.8 | 90 | 4.3 |
| Australian National University | 81 | 4.4 | 61 | 3.1 | 55 | 2.7 | . | . | 60 | 2.9 |
| Bond University | 73 | 3.9 | 71 | 3.6 | 106 | 5.1 | 84 | 3.9 | 88 | 4.2 |
| Charles Sturt University | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 31 | 1.5 |
| Curtin University | 48 | 2.6 | 44 | 2.2 | 63 | 3.0 | 60 | 2.8 | 66 | 3.2 |
| Deakin University | 101 | 5.4 | 89 | 4.5 | 57 | 2.7 | 90 | 4.2 | 68 | 3.3 |
| Flinders University | 27 | 1.5 | 69 | 3.5 | 65 | 3.1 | 54 | 2.5 | 50 | 2.4 |
| Griffith University | 38 | 2.0 | 106 | 5.4 | 96 | 4.6 | 72 | 3.3 | 56 | 2.7 |
| James Cook University | 99 | 5.3 | 70 | 3.6 | 94 | 4.5 | 63 | 2.9 | 50 | 2.4 |
| Macquarie University | 21 | 1.1 | 30 | 1.5 | 22 | 1.1 | 55 | 2.5 | 57 | 2.7 |
| The University of Melbourne | 127 | 6.9 | 79 | 4.0 | 145 | 7.0 | 181 | 8.4 | 134 | 6.4 |
| Monash University | 353 | 19.0 | 354 | 18.0 | 312 | 15.0 | 349 | 16.1 | 353 | 16.9 |
| The Uni. of Newcastle / Uni. of New England JMP | 99 | 5.3 | 107 | 5.4 | 139 | 6.7 | 171 | 7.9 | 155 | 7.4 |
| The University of New South Wales | 71 | 3.8 | 34 | 1.7 | 61 | 2.9 | 87 | 4.0 | 100 | 4.8 |
| The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle) | 79 | 4.3 | 79 | 4.0 | 71 | 3.4 | 60 | 2.8 | 42 | 2.0 |
| The University of Notre Dame (Sydney) | 33 | 1.8 | 45 | 2.3 | 46 | 2.2 | 33 | 1.5 | 56 | 2.7 |
| The University of Queensland | 200 | 10.8 | 134 | 6.8 | 144 | 6.9 | 158 | 7.3 | 68 | 3.3 |
| The University of Sydney | 114 | 6.1 | 153 | 7.8 | 155 | 7.5 | 185 | 8.5 | 204 | 9.8 |
| University of Tasmania | 107 | 5.8 | 95 | 4.8 | 72 | 3.5 | 72 | 3.3 | 63 | 3.0 |
| The University of Western Australia | 87 | 4.7 | 208 | 10.6 | 169 | 8.1 | 135 | 6.2 | 161 | 7.7 |
| Western Sydney University | 38 | 2.0 | 43 | 2.2 | 27 | 1.3 | 110 | 5.1 | 73 | 3.5 |
| University of Wollongong | 50 | 2.7 | 71 | 3.6 | 71 | 3.4 | 65 | 3.0 | 59 | 2.8 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: There were no 2024 survey responses from the Australian National University. The Charles Sturt medical program only saw its first cohort of graduates in 2025.

Domestic students

1,831 of the respondents (87.9 per cent) were domestic students; slightly higher than the proportion in the full final year cohort, which comprised 84.8 per cent domestic students (Table 2).

Table 2. Respondents by medical school – Domestic students only

| School attended | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| The University of Adelaide | 7 | 0.4 | 24 | 1.4 | 92 | 5.0 | 74 | 3.9 | 79 | 4.3 |
| Australian National University | 70 | 4.4 | 55 | 3.2 | 51 | 2.8 | . | . | 53 | 2.9 |
| Bond University | 73 | 4.6 | 70 | 4.0 | 105 | 5.7 | 82 | 4.3 | 88 | 4.8 |
| Charles Sturt University | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 31 | 1.7 |
| Curtin University | 48 | 3.0 | 44 | 2.5 | 63 | 3.4 | 60 | 3.1 | 66 | 3.6 |
| Deakin University | 93 | 5.9 | 79 | 4.6 | 55 | 3.0 | 77 | 4.0 | 59 | 3.2 |
| Flinders University | 26 | 1.6 | 61 | 3.5 | 58 | 3.2 | 43 | 2.2 | 43 | 2.3 |
| Griffith University | 35 | 2.2 | 96 | 5.5 | 85 | 4.6 | 69 | 3.6 | 53 | 2.9 |
| James Cook University | 84 | 5.3 | 63 | 3.6 | 83 | 4.5 | 59 | 3.1 | 44 | 2.4 |
| Macquarie University | 20 | 1.3 | 25 | 1.4 | 19 | 1.0 | 49 | 2.6 | 47 | 2.6 |
| The University of Melbourne | 116 | 7.3 | 74 | 4.3 | 127 | 6.9 | 161 | 8.4 | 115 | 6.3 |
| Monash University | 271 | 17.1 | 291 | 16.8 | 237 | 13.0 | 282 | 14.7 | 288 | 15.7 |
| The Uni. of Newcastle / Uni. of New England JMP | 89 | 5.6 | 97 | 5.6 | 127 | 6.9 | 159 | 8.3 | 141 | 7.7 |
| The University of New South Wales | 54 | 3.4 | 31 | 1.8 | 43 | 2.3 | 73 | 3.8 | 81 | 4.4 |
| The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle) | 79 | 5.0 | 79 | 4.6 | 70 | 3.8 | 60 | 3.1 | 42 | 2.3 |
| The University of Notre Dame (Sydney) | 33 | 2.1 | 44 | 2.5 | 44 | 2.4 | 33 | 1.7 | 56 | 3.1 |
| The University of Queensland | 158 | 9.9 | 112 | 6.5 | 130 | 7.1 | 124 | 6.5 | 56 | 3.1 |
| The University of Sydney | 88 | 5.5 | 123 | 7.1 | 129 | 7.0 | 177 | 9.2 | 180 | 9.8 |
| University of Tasmania | 91 | 5.7 | 78 | 4.5 | 66 | 3.6 | 63 | 3.3 | 54 | 2.9 |
| The University of Western Australia | 80 | 5.0 | 188 | 10.9 | 158 | 8.6 | 123 | 6.4 | 146 | 8.0 |
| Western Sydney University | 31 | 2.0 | 37 | 2.1 | 26 | 1.4 | 87 | 4.5 | 56 | 3.1 |
| University of Wollongong | 42 | 2.6 | 60 | 3.5 | 62 | 3.4 | 61 | 3.2 | 53 | 2.9 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |

Note: throughout this report:

- Domestic students comprise of Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, and New Zealand citizens.
- International student figures are only for those enrolled in onshore medical programs, and do not include students enrolled in Australian medical programs run in other countries.

Table 3 shows those medical schools which had a response from their international students; noting that not all schools enrol international students.

Twelve per cent of the respondents (253 in total), were international students (enrolled in onshore medical programs); a lower proportion than the cohort which comprised 12.1 per cent international students.

Table 3. Respondents by medical school – International on-shore students only

| School attended | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| The University of Adelaide | 1 | 0.4 | 3 | 1.3 | 12 | 4.9 | 8 | 3.2 | 11 | 4.3 |
| Australian National University | 11 | 4.1 | 6 | 2.5 | 4 | 1.6 | . | . | 7 | 2.8 |
| Bond University | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.8 | . | . |
| Charles Sturt University | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Curtin University | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Deakin University | 8 | 3.0 | 10 | 4.2 | 2 | 0.8 | 13 | 5.2 | 9 | 3.6 |
| Flinders University | 1 | 0.4 | 8 | 3.4 | 7 | 2.9 | 11 | 4.4 | 7 | 2.8 |
| Griffith University | 3 | 1.1 | 10 | 4.2 | 11 | 4.5 | 3 | 1.2 | 3 | 1.2 |
| James Cook University | 15 | 5.6 | 7 | 2.9 | 11 | 4.5 | 4 | 1.6 | 6 | 2.4 |
| Macquarie University | 1 | 0.4 | 5 | 2.1 | 3 | 1.2 | 6 | 2.4 | 10 | 4.0 |
| The University of Melbourne | 11 | 4.1 | 5 | 2.1 | 18 | 7.4 | 20 | 8.0 | 19 | 7.5 |
| Monash University | 82 | 30.8 | 63 | 26.5 | 75 | 30.7 | 67 | 26.8 | 65 | 25.7 |
| The University of Newcastle & University of New England JMP | 10 | 3.8 | 10 | 4.2 | 12 | 4.9 | 12 | 4.8 | 14 | 5.5 |
| The University of New South Wales | 17 | 6.4 | 3 | 1.3 | 18 | 7.4 | 14 | 5.6 | 19 | 7.5 |
| The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle) | . | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | . | . | . | . |
| The University of Notre Dame (Sydney) | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.8 | . | . | . | . |
| The University of Queensland | 42 | 15.8 | 22 | 9.2 | 14 | 5.7 | 34 | 13.6 | 12 | 4.7 |
| The University of Sydney | 26 | 9.8 | 30 | 12.6 | 26 | 10.7 | 8 | 3.2 | 24 | 9.5 |
| University of Tasmania | 16 | 6.0 | 17 | 7.1 | 6 | 2.5 | 9 | 3.6 | 9 | 3.6 |
| The University of Western Australia | 7 | 2.6 | 20 | 8.4 | 11 | 4.5 | 12 | 4.8 | 15 | 5.9 |
| Western Sydney University | 7 | 2.6 | 6 | 2.5 | 1 | 0.4 | 23 | 9.2 | 17 | 6.7 |
| University of Wollongong | 8 | 3.0 | 11 | 4.6 | 9 | 3.7 | 4 | 1.6 | 6 | 2.4 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |

Proportion by medical program length

The sample is representative of the proportions enrolled in 4-year programs, with a strong response rate from those in 5-year courses and a lower response rate from those in a 6-year program (Table 4).

Table 4. Number of final year students across all Australian medical schools, showing course length

| Course Length | Final year students 2025 | | MSOD respondents 2025 | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| 4-year course | 2,066 | 51.7% | 1,121 | 53.8% |
| 5-year course | 1074 | 26.9% | 723 | 34.7% |
| 6-year course | 854 | 21.4% | 240 | 11.5% |
| Total | 3,994 | | 2,084 | |

Source: [Medical Deans' Data Dashboard](#)

Respondents by state/territory

New South Wales and Victoria yielded the largest number of survey responses. The highest response rate in terms of final year student numbers was Western Australia where 66.3 per cent of the final year cohort completed the survey.

Note: Table 5 and Table 6 refer to the location where students were studying medicine, which may be different to where they identify their primary residence to be.

Table 5. Respondents by state/territory

| State/territory of completion | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| NSW | 426 | 23.0 | 483 | 24.5 | 521 | 25.1 | 706 | 32.6 | 735 | 35.3 |
| VIC | 581 | 31.3 | 522 | 26.5 | 514 | 24.8 | 620 | 28.6 | 555 | 26.6 |
| WA | 214 | 11.5 | 331 | 16.8 | 303 | 14.6 | 255 | 11.8 | 269 | 12.9 |
| QLD | 410 | 22.1 | 381 | 19.3 | 440 | 21.2 | 377 | 17.4 | 262 | 12.6 |
| SA | 35 | 1.9 | 96 | 4.9 | 169 | 8.1 | 136 | 6.3 | 140 | 6.7 |
| TAS | 107 | 5.8 | 95 | 4.8 | 72 | 3.5 | 72 | 3.3 | 63 | 3.0 |
| ACT | 81 | 4.4 | 61 | 3.1 | 55 | 2.7 | . | . | 60 | 2.9 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin is included in South Australian figures

Table 6. Respondents and students: comparison by state/territory

| State/territory of study | 2025 final year students | | 2025 MSOD respondents | | 2025 Response Rate |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|------|--------------------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | % |
| ACT | 100 | 2.5% | 60 | 2.9 | 60.0 |
| NSW | 1185 | 29.7% | 735 | 35.3 | 62.0 |
| QLD | 962 | 24.1% | 262 | 12.6 | 27.2 |
| SA | 362 | 9.1% | 140 | 6.7 | 38.7 |
| TAS | 107 | 2.7% | 63 | 3.0 | 58.9 |
| VIC | 872 | 21.8% | 555 | 26.6 | 63.6 |
| WA | 406 | 10.2% | 269 | 12.9 | 66.3 |
| Total | 3994 | | 2,084 | | 52.2 |

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin is included in South Australian figures

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

Student gender

The gender balance of respondents was 53 per cent female and 46.0 per cent male with approximately less than 1 per cent identifying as either non-binary or preferring not to say. The full cohort of the 2025 final year students was 52.3 per cent female, 47.5 per cent male, and 0.2 per cent non-binary or unspecified (Table 7).

Table 7. Respondents by gender

| Gender | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Male | 812 | 43.8 | 840 | 42.7 | 867 | 41.8 | 987 | 45.6 | 959 | 46.0 |
| Female | 1,034 | 55.8 | 1,109 | 56.3 | 1,182 | 57.0 | 1,158 | 53.5 | 1,110 | 53.3 |
| Non-Binary | 8 | 0.4 | 8 | 0.4 | 14 | 0.7 | 10 | 0.5 | 5 | 0.2 |
| Prefer not to say | . | . | 12 | 0.6 | 11 | 0.5 | 11 | 0.5 | 10 | 0.5 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Student age

The largest number of respondents fell within the under-25 age group. Just under eighty-seven per cent were aged under 30 years old, with only 1.6 per cent aged 40 or over (Table 8).

Table 8. Respondents by age group

| Age group | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| <25 | 764 | 41.2 | 783 | 39.8 | 894 | 43.1 | 1,002 | 46.3 | 869 | 41.7 |
| 25-29 | 834 | 45.0 | 954 | 48.5 | 941 | 45.4 | 917 | 42.3 | 933 | 44.8 |
| 30-34 | 175 | 9.4 | 169 | 8.6 | 166 | 8.0 | 169 | 7.8 | 177 | 8.5 |
| 35-39 | 45 | 2.4 | 37 | 1.9 | 42 | 2.0 | 49 | 2.3 | 59 | 2.8 |
| 40-44 | 22 | 1.2 | 16 | 0.8 | 24 | 1.2 | 19 | 0.9 | 18 | 0.9 |
| 45+ | 14 | 0.8 | 10 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.3 | 10 | 0.5 | 15 | 0.7 |
| [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 13 | 0.6 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

The median age of respondents was 25 (Table 9).

Table 9. Median age of respondents

| Age | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Median | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Minimum | 21 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| Maximum | 59 | 55 | 54 | 56 | 57 |

Relationship and dependants

The proportion of respondents identifying as having a partner (i.e., in a relationship or married) was again the majority (Table 10).

Table 10. Partner status

| Partner status | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|----------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Partnered | 938 | 50.6 | 1,110 | 56.4 | 1,138 | 54.9 | 1,152 | 53.2 | 1,068 | 51.2 |
| Not partnered | 916 | 49.4 | 859 | 43.6 | 936 | 45.1 | 1,014 | 46.8 | 1,016 | 48.8 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Four per cent of respondents reported having dependent children, a figure which has remained relatively consistent since 2021. Similarly, more than 97 per cent have no 'other dependants', with again little change over the years (Table 11).

Table 11. Number of dependent children and other dependants

| Dependent children & other dependants | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Children | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1,776 | 95.8 | 1,908 | 96.9 | 1,989 | 95.9 | 2,086 | 96.3 | 2,000 | 96.0 |
| 1 | 37 | 2.0 | 30 | 1.5 | 41 | 2.0 | 43 | 2.0 | 31 | 1.5 |
| 2 | 27 | 1.5 | 23 | 1.2 | 30 | 1.4 | 32 | 1.5 | 43 | 2.1 |
| 3 or more | 14 | 0.8 | 8 | 0.4 | 14 | 0.7 | 5 | 0.2 | 10 | 0.5 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1,816 | 98.0 | 1,942 | 98.6 | 2,025 | 97.6 | 2,116 | 97.7 | 2,027 | 97.3 |
| 1 | 31 | 1.7 | 22 | 1.1 | 39 | 1.9 | 35 | 1.6 | 42 | 2.0 |
| 2 | 7 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.1 | 8 | 0.4 | 12 | 0.6 | 10 | 0.5 |
| 3 or more | . | . | 3 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.1 | 3 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.2 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Country of birth

Table 12 shows the countries with the highest representation of survey respondents over the last 5 years; while the number respondents born in Australia decreased from the previous year, the proportion continues to remain stable at around two thirds of the total of respondents.

Among respondents born outside Australia, the largest proportion were born in India (4.7 per cent of all respondents), followed by those born in Singapore (4.1 per cent) and those born in New Zealand (2.6 per cent).

Table 12. Country of birth (top 10)

| Country of birth | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Australia | 1,212 | 65.4 | 1,300 | 66.1 | 1,341 | 64.7 | 1,398 | 64.5 | 1,317 | 63.2 |
| India | 63 | 3.4 | 64 | 3.3 | 91 | 4.4 | 103 | 4.8 | 97 | 4.7 |
| Singapore | 95 | 5.1 | 99 | 5.0 | 94 | 4.5 | 71 | 3.3 | 85 | 4.1 |
| New Zealand | 45 | 2.4 | 56 | 2.8 | 66 | 3.2 | 59 | 2.7 | 55 | 2.6 |
| China (excludes SARs and Taiwan) | 29 | 1.6 | 48 | 2.4 | 50 | 2.4 | 70 | 3.2 | 50 | 2.4 |
| Sri Lanka | 30 | 1.6 | 30 | 1.5 | 37 | 1.8 | 38 | 1.8 | 46 | 2.2 |
| Korea, Republic of (South) | 21 | 1.1 | 7 | 0.4 | 20 | 1.0 | 20 | 0.9 | 43 | 2.1 |
| Canada | 57 | 3.1 | 39 | 2.0 | 43 | 2.1 | 36 | 1.7 | 43 | 2.1 |
| England | 35 | 1.9 | 41 | 2.1 | 39 | 1.9 | 43 | 2.0 | 41 | 2.0 |
| Malaysia | 49 | 2.6 | 33 | 1.7 | 38 | 1.8 | 41 | 1.9 | 38 | 1.8 |
| [Other country] | 216 | 11.7 | 251 | 12.8 | 255 | 12.3 | 287 | 13.3 | 269 | 12.9 |
| <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 2 | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Language

Over 36 per cent of domestic students and nearly 80 per cent of international students speak a language other than English (Table 13).

Table 13. Speaks a language other than English

| Other Language | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 478 | 30.1 | 494 | 28.5 | 606 | 33.1 | 730 | 38.1 | 665 | 36.3 |
| No | 1,110 | 69.9 | 1,237 | 71.5 | 1,224 | 66.9 | 1,186 | 61.9 | 1,166 | 63.7 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 198 | 74.4 | 169 | 71.0 | 188 | 77.0 | 204 | 81.6 | 198 | 78.3 |
| No | 68 | 25.6 | 69 | 29.0 | 56 | 23.0 | 46 | 18.4 | 55 | 21.7 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1,178 | 63.5 | 1,306 | 66.3 | 1,280 | 61.7 | 1,232 | 56.9 | 1,221 | 58.6 |
| No | 676 | 36.5 | 663 | 33.7 | 794 | 38.3 | 934 | 43.1 | 863 | 41.4 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Mandarin was the most frequently reported language among students who spoke a language other than English (Table 14).

Table 14. Languages other than English spoken (Top 10 ranking)

| Language | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Mandarin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cantonese | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Chinese, nec | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Tamil | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| Korean | 7 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 5 |
| Hindi | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Sinhalese | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| Arabic | 10 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Vietnamese | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Bengali | 10 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 10 |

Sources of income

Almost three-quarters of respondents (71 per cent) reported relying on family as an income source during their medical degree. The proportion indicating reliance on government assistance decreased to 54.8 per cent – having fallen even every year since 2020. Those reliant on HECS/FEE/OS HELP loans decreased to 56.9 per cent. The number of respondents indicating reliance on savings/trust fund decreased slightly to 24.1 per cent. More than three-fifths of respondents report paid employment as a contributing source of income during their medical degree; this figure has remained relatively consistent over the past 3 years (Table 15 and Figure 1).

Table 15. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

| Income sources | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Family | 1,328 | 71.6 | 1,386 | 70.3 | 1,529 | 73.7 | 1,556 | 71.8 | 1,482 | 71.1 |
| Government assistance | 1,171 | 63.1 | 1,315 | 66.7 | 1,251 | 60.3 | 1,262 | 58.2 | 1,144 | 54.9 |
| HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan | 1,006 | 54.2 | 1,067 | 54.1 | 1,257 | 60.6 | 1,240 | 57.2 | 1,186 | 56.9 |
| Paid employment | 1,082 | 58.3 | 1,294 | 65.7 | 1,307 | 63.0 | 1,339 | 61.8 | 1,280 | 61.4 |
| Personal Loan | 103 | 5.5 | 146 | 7.4 | 151 | 7.2 | 120 | 5.5 | 112 | 5.4 |
| Savings/Trust fund | 315 | 16.9 | 374 | 18.9 | 489 | 23.5 | 553 | 25.5 | 504 | 24.2 |
| Scholarship | 436 | 23.5 | 495 | 25.1 | 443 | 21.3 | 468 | 21.6 | 468 | 22.5 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: Participants could select more than one income source

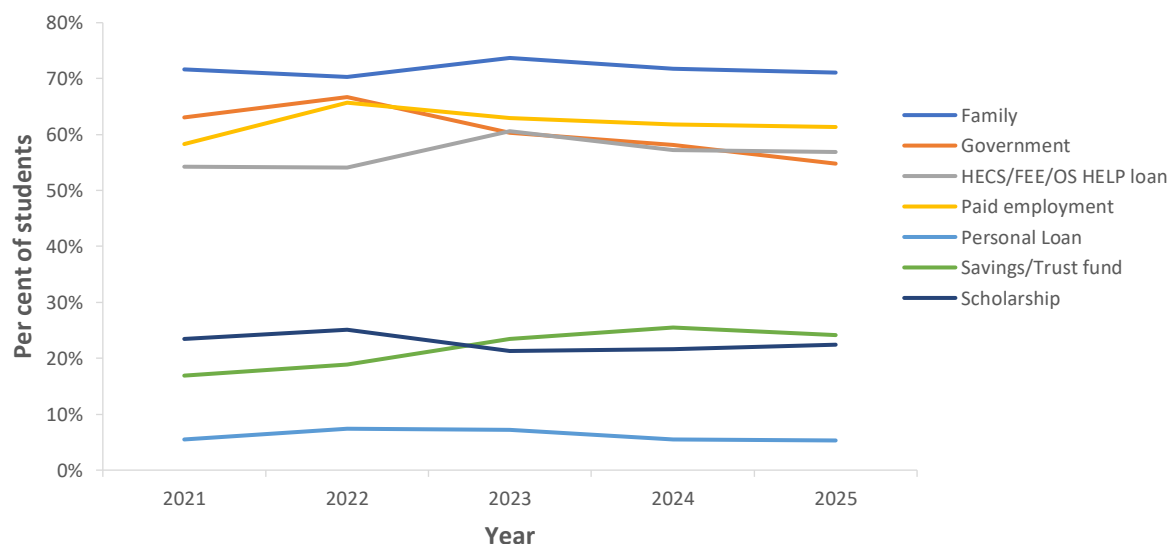


Figure 1. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

Rural background

Over 26 per cent of 2025 respondents self-reported as having come from a rural background - 29.3 per cent of domestic vs. 6.7 per cent of international respondents (Table 16).

Table 16. Respondent considers themselves to come from a rural background

| Rural background | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 399 | 25.1 | 441 | 25.5 | 505 | 27.6 | 497 | 25.9 | 536 | 29.3 |
| No | 1,189 | 74.9 | 1,290 | 74.5 | 1,325 | 72.4 | 1,419 | 74.1 | 1,295 | 70.7 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 28 | 10.5 | 16 | 6.7 | 16 | 6.6 | 16 | 6.4 | 17 | 6.7 |
| No | 238 | 89.5 | 222 | 93.3 | 228 | 93.4 | 234 | 93.6 | 236 | 93.3 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 427 | 23.0 | 457 | 23.2 | 521 | 25.1 | 513 | 23.7 | 553 | 26.5 |
| No | 1,427 | 77.0 | 1,512 | 76.8 | 1,553 | 74.9 | 1,653 | 76.3 | 1,531 | 73.5 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Almost 86 per cent of 2025 MSOD respondents reported having finished their final year of secondary schooling in Australia. Of those, 26.7 per cent did so in a regional⁷ area (Table 17).

Table 17. Final year of secondary schooling in a regional area

| Final year of secondary school in a regional area | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 353 | 23.3 | 389 | 23.5 | 440 | 25.3 | 456 | 25.0 | 476 | 27.2 |
| No | 1,165 | 76.7 | 1,265 | 76.5 | 1,300 | 74.7 | 1,371 | 75.0 | 1,277 | 72.8 |
| <i>Overseas</i> | 70 | . | 77 | . | 90 | . | 89 | . | 78 | . |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 3 | 11.1 | 2 | 8.3 | 1 | 3.6 | 2 | 5.4 | 2 | 5.7 |
| No | 24 | 88.9 | 22 | 91.7 | 27 | 96.4 | 35 | 94.6 | 33 | 94.3 |
| <i>Overseas</i> | 239 | . | 214 | . | 216 | . | 213 | . | 218 | . |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 356 | 23.0 | 391 | 23.3 | 441 | 24.9 | 458 | 24.6 | 478 | 26.7 |
| No | 1,189 | 77.0 | 1,287 | 76.7 | 1,327 | 75.1 | 1,406 | 75.4 | 1,310 | 73.3 |
| <i>Overseas</i> | 309 | . | 291 | . | 306 | . | 302 | . | 296 | . |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: Geographical classification for this question changed in 2023. For years 2021-2022, respondents were asked whether their final year was spent in a regional city, large town, smaller town, or small community. In contrast, in 2023-2025, respondents were asked whether their final year was spent in a non-metropolitan location (i.e., a regional centre, rural town or a remote community).

7. Regional area defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 2-7.

Type of longest prior residential location

The MSOD survey asks participants about the type of location they have lived in the longest if they had lived in Australia for more than 1 year prior to commencing medical school.

The majority (70.5 per cent) of domestic students indicated they had lived longest in a Metropolitan area (Table 18).

Note: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent published population data (released 28 June 2022⁸) shows that 67 per cent of the population were living in Greater Capital Cities⁹.

Table 18. Location where students have lived the longest (for domestic students living in Australia for more than 1 year prior to medical school)

| Location of longest residence ¹⁰ | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | | |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | |
| Capital city | 1,062 | 66.9 | 1,186 | 68.5 | Metropolitan | 1,309 | 71.6 | 1,399 | 73.2 | 1,290 | 70.5 |
| Major urban centre | 168 | 10.6 | 179 | 10.3 | Regional centre | 195 | 10.7 | 199 | 10.4 | 194 | 10.6 |
| Regional city or large town | 146 | 9.2 | 177 | 10.2 | Large rural town | 105 | 5.7 | 123 | 6.4 | 130 | 7.1 |
| Smaller town | 124 | 7.8 | 105 | 6.1 | Medium rural town | 108 | 5.9 | 103 | 5.4 | 103 | 5.6 |
| Small community | 87 | 5.5 | 84 | 4.9 | Small rural town | 100 | 5.5 | 80 | 4.2 | 93 | 5.1 |
| | . | . | . | . | Remote/very remote community | 11 | 0.6 | 8 | 0.4 | 19 | 1.0 |
| <i>[In AUS < 12 months]</i> | 1 | . | . | . | <i>[In AUS < 12 months]</i> | 2 | . | 4 | . | 2 | . |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |

8. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Profile of Australia's population, released 28/06/2022, viewed 29/05/2022
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/location-census/2021>.

9. Australia Bureau of Statistics Statistical Geography Fact Sheet:
[https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsgeography/\\$file/Greater%20Capital%20City%20Statistical%20Area%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsgeography/$file/Greater%20Capital%20City%20Statistical%20Area%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf).

10. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

SECTION 3: PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Highest level of previous degree

The number of final year students who have completed a degree, diploma, or certificate prior to undertaking their medical studies has remained relatively stable over this period. The number of those with no prior tertiary qualifications increased slightly to just over 39 per cent - the highest percentage since 2021 (Table 19).

Table 19. Highest level of previous degree

| Highest level of previous degree | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Postgraduate Degree | 121 | 6.5 | 113 | 5.7 | 113 | 5.4 | 127 | 5.9 | 122 | 5.9 |
| Bachelor's Degree (honours) | 48 | 2.6 | 30 | 1.5 | 45 | 2.2 | 52 | 2.4 | 50 | 2.4 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 254 | 13.7 | 302 | 15.3 | 240 | 11.6 | 238 | 11.0 | 275 | 13.2 |
| Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate level | 712 | 38.4 | 822 | 41.7 | 846 | 40.8 | 879 | 40.6 | 758 | 36.4 |
| Diploma | 20 | 1.1 | 18 | 0.9 | 24 | 1.2 | 13 | 0.6 | 19 | 0.9 |
| Certificate | 33 | 1.8 | 29 | 1.5 | 33 | 1.6 | 32 | 1.5 | 41 | 2.0 |
| N/A no prior tertiary qualifications | 666 | 35.9 | 655 | 33.3 | 773 | 37.3 | 825 | 38.1 | 819 | 39.3 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Discipline of previous degree

Just over half of all respondents who had completed a previous degree had done so in a health-related discipline (Table 20). This proportion continues to increase: up from 44.4 per cent in 2021 to 53.7 per cent in 2025. The most common health-specific degrees completed were Medical Studies (28.0 per cent), Other Health (4.3 per cent), Rehabilitation Therapies (3.6 per cent), and Public Health (3.4 per cent).

Natural and Physical Sciences was the second most common discipline for prior degree, with 38.9 per cent of respondents who had completed a previous degree having completed one in this discipline.

Table 20. Discipline of highest previous degree

| Discipline of highest previous degree | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Health Total | 516 | 44.4 | 641 | 49.4 | 637 | 48.9 | 704 | 52.4 | 680 | 53.7 |
| == Medical Studies | 237 | 20.4 | 350 | 27.0 | 320 | 24.5 | 379 | 28.2 | 355 | 28.0 |
| == Complementary Therapies | 2 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | . | . | 2 | 0.1 |
| == Dental Studies | 2 | 0.1 | 7 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 5 | 0.3 | 7 | 0.5 |
| == Nursing / Midwifery | 32 | 2.7 | 27 | 2.0 | 46 | 3.5 | 47 | 3.5 | 42 | 3.3 |
| == Optical Science | 6 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.5 | 2 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.2 | 11 | 0.8 |
| == Pharmacy | 51 | 4.3 | 40 | 3.0 | 34 | 2.6 | 41 | 3.0 | 37 | 2.9 |
| == Rehabilitation Therapies | 37 | 3.1 | 54 | 4.1 | 51 | 3.9 | 33 | 2.4 | 46 | 3.6 |
| == Radiography | 10 | 0.8 | 10 | 0.7 | 13 | 0.9 | 14 | 1.0 | 8 | 0.6 |
| == Public Health | 45 | 3.8 | 46 | 3.5 | 45 | 3.4 | 55 | 4.1 | 44 | 3.4 |
| == Veterinary Studies | 6 | 0.5 | 6 | 0.4 | 5 | 0.3 | 3 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.1 |
| == Other Health | 75 | 6.4 | 62 | 4.7 | 65 | 4.9 | 49 | 3.6 | 55 | 4.3 |
| Natural and Physical Sciences | 559 | 48.1 | 569 | 43.9 | 567 | 43.5 | 587 | 43.7 | 493 | 38.9 |
| Information Technology | 10 | 0.8 | 11 | 0.8 | 10 | 0.7 | 11 | 0.8 | 12 | 0.9 |
| Engineering and Related Technologies | 32 | 2.7 | 40 | 3.0 | 37 | 2.8 | 32 | 2.3 | 33 | 2.6 |
| Architecture and Building | 1 | 0.0 | . | . | 2 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.1 |
| Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies | 6 | 0.5 | 8 | 0.6 | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.3 | 8 | 0.6 |
| Education | 11 | 0.9 | 8 | 0.6 | 10 | 0.7 | 12 | 0.8 | 21 | 1.6 |
| Management and Commerce | 38 | 3.2 | 44 | 3.3 | 34 | 2.6 | 47 | 3.5 | 43 | 3.3 |
| Society and Culture | 85 | 7.3 | 82 | 6.3 | 90 | 6.9 | 58 | 4.3 | 72 | 5.6 |
| Creative Arts | 31 | 2.6 | 37 | 2.8 | 25 | 1.9 | 18 | 1.3 | 38 | 3.0 |
| Food, Hospitality and Personal Services | 4 | 0.3 | 4 | 0.3 | 6 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.2 | 2 | 0.1 |
| Mixed Field Programmes | 13 | 1.1 | 12 | 0.9 | 22 | 1.6 | 12 | 0.8 | 13 | 1.0 |

Notes:

1. Due to the structure of the question, 'Health Total' includes those who ticked a row titled 'Health, please specify' and did not specify an area as well as those who specified at least one health area.
2. Participants can select more than one option.

SECTION 4: MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Satisfaction with medical program

Final year students were asked about their level of satisfaction with the medical program at their university (Table 21) on a Likert scale of 1 to 5.

Seventy-seven per cent of respondents indicated they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program in 2025, a small increase over last year’s figure. The proportion of respondents “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” decreased slightly to 8.5 per cent.

The proportion of domestic students who were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program remained higher than that of international students, consistent with previous years.

Table 21. Overall level of satisfaction with medical program

| Satisfaction | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Domestic Students | | | | | |
| Average satisfaction | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Median satisfaction | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent satisfied or very satisfied | 77.8 | 76.4 | 79.1 | 77.1 | 78.2 |
| Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied | 9.6 | 10.4 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.2 |
| International Students | | | | | |
| Average satisfaction | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Median satisfaction | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent satisfied or very satisfied | 67.3 | 71.0 | 78.3 | 72.8 | 71.5 |
| Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied | 12.8 | 13.4 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.3 |
| All Students | | | | | |
| Average satisfaction | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Median satisfaction | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent satisfied or very satisfied | 76.3 | 75.8 | 79.0 | 76.6 | 77.4 |
| Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied | 10.1 | 10.8 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 8.5 |

Note: Scale: 1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very satisfied

Preparation for internship

Seventy-nine per cent of 2025 respondents “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that their basic medical degree was preparing them well to work as an intern (Table 22). Just under 5 per cent of the cohort said they “Disagreed” or “Strongly Disagreed” with this statement.

Domestic students continued to agree more strongly with the statement than international students - a pattern that has been consistent since 2021.

**Table 22. Overall level of agreement with the statement
'My Basic Medical Degree is preparing me well to work as an intern'**

| Agreement | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Domestic Students | | | | | |
| Average agreement | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Median agreement | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing | 79.6 | 79.8 | 81.9 | 80.7 | 79.5 |
| Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing | 5.8 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 |
| International Students | | | | | |
| Average agreement | 3.8 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Median agreement | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing | 71.8 | 73.5 | 78.3 | 75.6 | 77.9 |
| Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing | 6.0 | 7.6 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 3.2 |
| All Students | | | | | |
| Average agreement | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Median agreement | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing | 78.5 | 79.0 | 81.4 | 80.1 | 79.3 |
| Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing | 5.8 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.9 |

Note: Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Rural club membership

As part of the medical school experience, students can join rural clubs – student-led groups and networks that promote and develop initiatives in rural and remote health practice.

In 2025, 20.6 per cent of respondents indicated that they were a member of a rural club – the lowest figure over the last 5 years (Table 23).

Domestic students continue to be significantly more likely to be in a rural club than international students; 22.8 per cent vs 4.7 per cent.

Table 23. Respondent is a member of a rural club

| Rural club membership | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 445 | 28.0 | 443 | 25.6 | 512 | 28.0 | 445 | 23.2 | 417 | 22.8 |
| No | 1,143 | 72.0 | 1,288 | 74.4 | 1,318 | 72.0 | 1,471 | 76.8 | 1,414 | 77.2 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 24 | 9.0 | 24 | 10.1 | 14 | 5.7 | 17 | 6.8 | 12 | 4.7 |
| No | 242 | 91.0 | 214 | 89.9 | 230 | 94.3 | 233 | 93.2 | 241 | 95.3 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 469 | 25.3 | 467 | 23.7 | 526 | 25.4 | 462 | 21.3 | 429 | 20.6 |
| No | 1,385 | 74.7 | 1,502 | 76.3 | 1,548 | 74.6 | 1,704 | 78.7 | 1,655 | 79.4 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Rural placement

A proportion of medical students undertake clinical placements in regional and rural areas. Among those that do, domestic students continue to undertake rural placements more than international students - 72.4 per cent vs 35.2 per cent (Table 24, Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4). This discrepancy is most marked for placements of 6 months or more, with 5.6 per cent of international students undertaking these in 2025 vs. 34.4 per cent of domestic students¹¹.

Table 24. Respondents undertaking a rural placement in their last two years of study

| Rural placement | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 440 | 27.7 | 341 | 19.7 | 440 | 24.0 | 569 | 29.7 | 506 | 27.6 |
| Up to 6 months | 587 | 37.0 | 817 | 47.2 | 750 | 41.0 | 715 | 37.3 | 695 | 38.0 |
| Between 6 and 12 months | 327 | 20.6 | 338 | 19.5 | 382 | 20.9 | 350 | 18.3 | 319 | 17.4 |
| More than a year | 234 | 14.7 | 235 | 13.6 | 258 | 14.1 | 282 | 14.7 | 311 | 17.0 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 150 | 56.4 | 106 | 44.5 | 146 | 59.8 | 153 | 61.2 | 164 | 64.8 |
| Up to 6 months | 83 | 31.2 | 99 | 41.6 | 72 | 29.5 | 67 | 26.8 | 75 | 29.6 |
| Between 6 and 12 months | 17 | 6.4 | 16 | 6.7 | 12 | 4.9 | 13 | 5.2 | 8 | 3.2 |
| More than a year | 16 | 6.0 | 17 | 7.1 | 14 | 5.7 | 17 | 6.8 | 6 | 2.4 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 590 | 31.8 | 447 | 22.7 | 586 | 28.3 | 722 | 33.3 | 670 | 32.1 |
| Up to 6 months | 670 | 36.1 | 916 | 46.5 | 822 | 39.6 | 782 | 36.1 | 770 | 36.9 |
| Between 6 and 12 months | 344 | 18.6 | 354 | 18.0 | 394 | 19.0 | 363 | 16.8 | 327 | 15.7 |
| More than a year | 250 | 13.5 | 252 | 12.8 | 272 | 13.1 | 299 | 13.8 | 317 | 15.2 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

11. It should be noted that funding through the Australian Government's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program, that supports students' placements and learning in rural locations, is not available for international student placements.

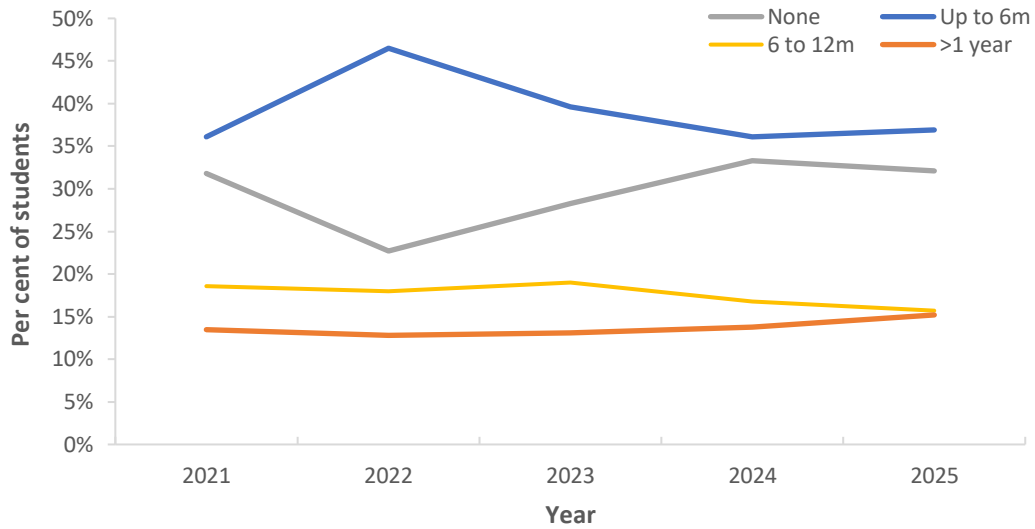


Figure 2. Proportion of all students undertaking a rural placement in their last 2 years of study

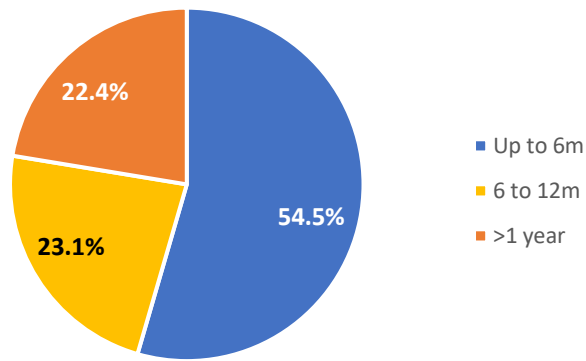


Figure 3. Duration of rural placements when taken, 2025 data

Respondents indicate high levels of satisfaction with their rural placement, regardless of its duration.

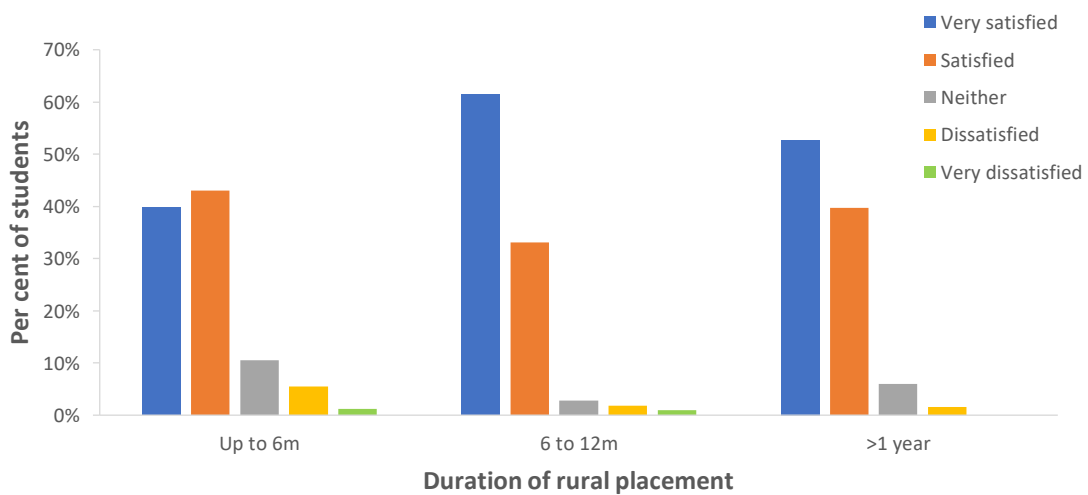


Figure 4. Students' satisfaction with rural placement, 2025 data

SECTION 5: CAREER INTENTION

Preferred country for future practice

The vast majority (97 per cent) of 2025 respondents indicated Australia as their preferred country for future practice – a figure which has varied little since 2021 (Table 25).

The number of international students wishing to stay and work in Australia remains high at 81 per cent and has been above 80 per cent for the last 5 years.

Table 25. Preferred country for future practice

| Preferred country for future practice | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | 1,576 | 99.2 | 1,717 | 99.2 | 1,818 | 99.3 | 1,899 | 99.1 | 1,818 | 99.3 |
| Other | 12 | 0.8 | 14 | 0.8 | 12 | 0.7 | 17 | 0.9 | 13 | 0.7 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | 228 | 85.7 | 193 | 81.1 | 203 | 83.2 | 210 | 84.0 | 205 | 81.0 |
| Other | 38 | 14.3 | 45 | 18.9 | 41 | 16.8 | 40 | 16.0 | 48 | 19.0 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | 1,804 | 97.3 | 1,910 | 97.0 | 2,021 | 97.4 | 2,109 | 97.4 | 2,023 | 97.1 |
| Other | 50 | 2.7 | 59 | 3.0 | 53 | 2.6 | 57 | 2.6 | 61 | 2.9 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Preferred state for future practice

Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland continued to be the three most preferred states for final year students when considering the location of their intended future practice (Table 26).

Table 26. Career intention: first preference of state for future practice

| First preference of state/territory for future practice | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 30 | 1.9 | 20 | 1.2 | 34 | 1.9 | 5 | 0.3 | 25 | 1.4 |
| NSW | 386 | 24.5 | 416 | 24.2 | 443 | 24.4 | 574 | 30.2 | 566 | 31.1 |
| NT | 27 | 1.7 | 25 | 1.5 | 26 | 1.4 | 15 | 0.8 | 26 | 1.4 |
| QLD | 336 | 21.3 | 326 | 19.0 | 370 | 20.4 | 341 | 18.0 | 274 | 15.1 |
| SA | 38 | 2.4 | 75 | 4.4 | 128 | 7.0 | 109 | 5.7 | 110 | 6.1 |
| TAS | 61 | 3.9 | 65 | 3.8 | 51 | 2.8 | 33 | 1.7 | 35 | 1.9 |
| VIC | 495 | 31.4 | 488 | 28.4 | 483 | 26.6 | 583 | 30.7 | 521 | 28.7 |
| WA | 203 | 12.9 | 302 | 17.6 | 283 | 15.6 | 239 | 12.6 | 261 | 14.4 |
| [Country other than AUS] | 12 | . | 14 | . | 12 | . | 17 | . | 13 | . |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 8 | 3.5 | 4 | 2.1 | 3 | 1.5 | . | . | 6 | 2.9 |
| NSW | 56 | 24.6 | 47 | 24.4 | 48 | 23.6 | 58 | 27.6 | 72 | 35.1 |
| NT | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.5 | . | . | 1 | 0.5 | 3 | 1.5 |
| QLD | 51 | 22.4 | 39 | 20.2 | 44 | 21.7 | 40 | 19.0 | 17 | 8.3 |
| SA | 3 | 1.3 | 9 | 4.7 | 15 | 7.4 | 10 | 4.8 | 15 | 7.3 |
| TAS | 7 | 3.1 | 9 | 4.7 | 1 | 0.5 | 5 | 2.4 | 5 | 2.4 |
| VIC | 89 | 39.0 | 64 | 33.2 | 77 | 37.9 | 82 | 39.0 | 73 | 35.6 |
| WA | 13 | 5.7 | 20 | 10.4 | 15 | 7.4 | 14 | 6.7 | 14 | 6.8 |
| [Country other than AUS] | 38 | . | 45 | . | 41 | . | 40 | . | 48 | . |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 38 | 2.1 | 24 | 1.3 | 37 | 1.8 | 5 | 0.2 | 31 | 1.5 |
| NSW | 442 | 24.5 | 463 | 24.2 | 491 | 24.3 | 632 | 30.0 | 638 | 31.5 |
| NT | 28 | 1.6 | 26 | 1.4 | 26 | 1.3 | 16 | 0.8 | 29 | 1.4 |
| QLD | 387 | 21.5 | 365 | 19.1 | 414 | 20.5 | 381 | 18.1 | 291 | 14.4 |
| SA | 41 | 2.3 | 84 | 4.4 | 143 | 7.1 | 119 | 5.6 | 125 | 6.2 |
| TAS | 68 | 3.8 | 74 | 3.9 | 52 | 2.6 | 38 | 1.8 | 40 | 2.0 |
| VIC | 584 | 32.4 | 552 | 28.9 | 560 | 27.7 | 665 | 31.5 | 594 | 29.4 |
| WA | 216 | 12.0 | 322 | 16.9 | 298 | 14.7 | 253 | 12.0 | 275 | 13.6 |
| [Country other than AUS] | 50 | . | 59 | . | 53 | . | 57 | . | 61 | . |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: The varying response rates from students at medical schools in each state/territory will affect these figures (see tables 5 and 6)

Most respondents indicated a preference to practise in the same state where they had undertaken their medical degree (Table 27).

Table 27. Career intention: first preference of state for future practice by state where medical degree completed

| School State | Preferred state for future practice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | ACT | | NSW | | NT | | QLD | | SA | | TAS | | VIC | | WA | | NZ | | O/S | | N | % |
| 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 25 | 41.7 | 17 | 28.3 | 3 | 5.0 | 4 | 6.7 | 1 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 7 | 11.7 | 1 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 2 | 3.3 | 60 | 100 | | |
| NSW | 4 | 0.5 | 584 | 79.5 | 8 | 1.1 | 52 | 7.1 | 6 | 0.8 | 2 | 0.3 | 55 | 7.5 | 10 | 1.4 | 2 | 0.3 | 12 | 1.6 | 735 | 100 |
| QLD | 1 | 0.4 | 20 | 7.6 | 1 | 0.4 | 214 | 81.7 | 3 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 14 | 5.3 | 3 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 6 | 2.3 | 262 | 100 | | |
| SA | | 0.0 | 4 | 2.9 | 8 | 5.7 | 5 | 3.6 | 107 | 76.4 | 0.0 | 7 | 5.0 | 2 | 1.4 | 1 | 0.7 | 6 | 4.3 | 140 | 100 | |
| TAS | | 0.0 | 5 | 7.9 | | 0.0 | 4 | 6.3 | 6 | 9.5 | 37 | 58.7 | 5 | 7.9 | 5 | 7.9 | 0.0 | 1 | 1.6 | 63 | 100 | |
| VIC | 1 | 0.2 | 7 | 1.3 | 5 | 0.9 | 8 | 1.4 | | 0.0 | 1 | 0.2 | 503 | 90.6 | 5 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 25 | 4.5 | 555 | 100 | |
| WA | | 0.0 | 1 | 0.4 | 4 | 1.5 | 4 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.7 | | 0.0 | 3 | 1.1 | 249 | 92.6 | 1 | 0.4 | 5 | 1.9 | 269 | 100 |
| Total | 31 | 1.5 | 638 | 30.6 | 29 | 1.4 | 291 | 14.0 | 125 | 6.0 | 40 | 1.9 | 594 | 28.5 | 275 | 13.2 | 4 | 0.2 | 57 | 2.7 | 2,084 | 100 |
| 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| NSW | 4 | 0.6 | 566 | 80.2 | 2 | 0.3 | 54 | 7.6 | 2 | 0.3 | 7 | 1.0 | 55 | 7.8 | 7 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.1 | 8 | 1.1 | 706 | 100 |
| QLD | . | . | 32 | 8.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 301 | 79.8 | 5 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.3 | 18 | 4.8 | 5 | 1.3 | 3 | 0.8 | 10 | 2.7 | 377 | 100 |
| SA | . | . | 7 | 5.1 | 7 | 5.1 | 3 | 2.2 | 104 | 76.5 | . | . | 7 | 5.1 | 2 | 1.5 | . | . | 6 | 4.4 | 136 | 100 |
| TAS | . | . | 10 | 13.9 | 2 | 2.8 | 8 | 11.1 | 1 | 1.4 | 29 | 40.3 | 15 | 20.8 | 6 | 8.3 | . | . | 1 | 1.4 | 72 | 100 |
| VIC | 1 | 0.2 | 10 | 1.6 | 3 | 0.5 | 14 | 2.3 | 6 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.2 | 556 | 89.7 | 6 | 1.0 | . | . | 23 | 3.7 | 620 | 100 |
| WA | . | . | 7 | 2.7 | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.4 | . | . | 14 | 5.5 | 227 | 89.0 | . | . | 5 | 2.0 | 255 | 100 |
| Total | 5 | 0.2 | 632 | 29.2 | 16 | 0.7 | 381 | 17.6 | 119 | 5.5 | 38 | 1.8 | 665 | 30.7 | 253 | 11.7 | 4 | 0.2 | 53 | 2.4 | 2,166 | 100 |
| 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 27 | 49.1 | 14 | 25.5 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.8 | 1 | 1.8 | . | . | 9 | 16.4 | 2 | 3.6 | . | . | . | . | 55 | 100 |
| NSW | 5 | 1.0 | 390 | 74.9 | 7 | 1.3 | 52 | 10.0 | 3 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.6 | 37 | 7.1 | 8 | 1.5 | 1 | 0.2 | 15 | 2.9 | 521 | 100 |
| QLD | 3 | 0.7 | 47 | 10.7 | . | . | 337 | 76.6 | 7 | 1.6 | 1 | 0.2 | 27 | 6.1 | 8 | 1.8 | 1 | 0.2 | 9 | 2.0 | 440 | 100 |
| SA | 1 | 0.6 | 14 | 8.3 | 12 | 7.1 | 6 | 3.6 | 125 | 74.0 | . | . | 7 | 4.1 | 3 | 1.8 | . | . | 1 | 0.6 | 169 | 100 |
| TAS | 1 | 1.4 | 5 | 6.9 | . | . | 7 | 9.7 | 1 | 1.4 | 48 | 66.7 | 7 | 9.7 | 2 | 2.8 | . | . | 1 | 1.4 | 72 | 100 |
| VIC | . | . | 13 | 2.5 | 3 | 0.6 | 9 | 1.8 | 3 | 0.6 | . | . | 460 | 89.5 | 6 | 1.2 | . | . | 20 | 3.9 | 514 | 100 |
| WA | . | . | 8 | 2.6 | 3 | 1.0 | 2 | 0.7 | 3 | 1.0 | . | . | 13 | 4.3 | 269 | 88.8 | 1 | 0.3 | 4 | 1.3 | 303 | 100 |
| Total | 37 | 1.8 | 491 | 23.7 | 26 | 1.3 | 414 | 20.0 | 143 | 6.9 | 52 | 2.5 | 560 | 27.0 | 298 | 14.4 | 3 | 0.1 | 50 | 2.4 | 2,074 | 100 |
| 2022 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 15 | 24.6 | 19 | 31.1 | . | . | 9 | 14.8 | . | . | . | . | 15 | 24.6 | 1 | 1.6 | . | . | 2 | 3.3 | 61 | 100 |
| NSW | 8 | 1.7 | 380 | 78.7 | 4 | 0.8 | 26 | 5.4 | 7 | 1.4 | 2 | 0.4 | 33 | 6.8 | 8 | 1.7 | 2 | 0.4 | 13 | 2.7 | 483 | 100 |
| QLD | 1 | 0.3 | 35 | 9.2 | 3 | 0.8 | 301 | 79.0 | 4 | 1.0 | . | . | 16 | 4.2 | 6 | 1.6 | 2 | 0.5 | 13 | 3.4 | 381 | 100 |
| SA | . | . | 4 | 4.2 | 9 | 9.4 | 6 | 6.3 | 72 | 75.0 | . | . | 2 | 2.1 | 1 | 1.0 | . | . | 2 | 2.1 | 96 | 100 |
| TAS | . | . | 5 | 5.3 | 1 | 1.1 | 4 | 4.2 | 1 | 1.1 | 70 | 73.7 | 9 | 9.5 | 1 | 1.1 | . | . | 4 | 4.2 | 95 | 100 |
| VIC | . | . | 12 | 2.3 | 3 | 0.6 | 16 | 3.1 | . | . | 1 | 0.2 | 470 | 90.0 | 2 | 0.4 | . | . | 18 | 3.4 | 522 | 100 |
| WA | . | . | 8 | 2.4 | 6 | 1.8 | 3 | 0.9 | . | . | 1 | 0.3 | 7 | 2.1 | 303 | 91.5 | . | . | 3 | 0.9 | 331 | 100 |
| Total | 24 | 1.2 | 463 | 23.5 | 26 | 1.3 | 365 | 18.5 | 84 | 4.3 | 74 | 3.8 | 552 | 28.0 | 322 | 16.4 | 4 | 0.2 | 55 | 2.8 | 1,969 | 100 |
| 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 29 | 35.8 | 27 | 33.3 | 3 | 3.7 | 4 | 4.9 | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 1.2 | 8 | 9.9 | 4 | 4.9 | . | . | 4 | 4.9 | 81 | 100 |
| NSW | 2 | 0.5 | 357 | 83.8 | 13 | 3.1 | 20 | 4.7 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 17 | 4.0 | 6 | 1.4 | 2 | 0.5 | 7 | 1.6 | 426 | 100 |
| QLD | 3 | 0.7 | 24 | 5.9 | 2 | 0.5 | 335 | 81.7 | 5 | 1.2 | 2 | 0.5 | 22 | 5.4 | 5 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.2 | 11 | 2.7 | 410 | 100 |
| SA | . | . | 1 | 2.9 | 5 | 14.3 | 2 | 5.7 | 24 | 68.6 | . | . | 2 | 5.7 | 1 | 2.9 | . | . | . | . | 35 | 100 |
| TAS | 1 | 0.9 | 11 | 10.3 | . | . | 7 | 6.5 | 4 | 3.7 | 61 | 57.0 | 14 | 13.1 | 7 | 6.5 | 2 | 1.9 | . | . | 107 | 100 |
| VIC | 1 | 0.2 | 17 | 2.9 | 2 | 0.3 | 13 | 2.2 | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.5 | 518 | 89.2 | 2 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.3 | 20 | 3.4 | 581 | 100 |
| WA | 2 | 0.9 | 5 | 2.3 | 3 | 1.4 | 6 | 2.8 | 3 | 1.4 | . | . | 3 | 1.4 | 191 | 89.3 | . | . | 1 | 0.5 | 214 | 100 |
| Total | 38 | 2.0 | 442 | 23.8 | 28 | 1.5 | 387 | 20.9 | 41 | 2.2 | 68 | 3.7 | 584 | 31.5 | 216 | 11.7 | 7 | 0.4 | 43 | 2.3 | 1,854 | 100 |

Preferred location for future practice

Just under thirty per cent of respondents expressed a preference to work outside a metropolitan area - 31.4 per cent of domestic students, 17.4 per cent of international students (Table 28). Preference for practice in more rural areas was stronger among domestic students than international, with 7.2 per cent of domestic students wanting to work in medium and small rural towns and remote/very remote communities vs 1.8 per cent of international students.

Table 28. Career intention: preferred location for future practice

| Preferred location for future practice ¹² | 2021 | | 2022 | | Preferred location for future practice ¹³ | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|--------------|------|--------------|------|--|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 956 | 60.3 | 1,044 | 60.4 | Metropolitan | 1,222 | 67.2 | 1,334 | 69.7 | 1,254 | 68.6 |
| Major urban centre | 310 | 19.5 | 307 | 17.8 | Regional centre | 321 | 17.7 | 333 | 17.4 | 284 | 15.5 |
| Regional city/large town | 216 | 13.6 | 254 | 14.7 | Large rural town | 145 | 8.0 | 141 | 7.4 | 157 | 8.6 |
| Smaller town | 71 | 4.5 | 92 | 5.3 | Medium rural town | 78 | 4.3 | 64 | 3.3 | 76 | 4.2 |
| Small community | 33 | 2.1 | 32 | 1.9 | Small rural town | 30 | 1.7 | 27 | 1.4 | 30 | 1.6 |
| [Intend to work O/S] | 2 | . | 2 | . | Remote/very remote community | 22 | 1.2 | 14 | 0.7 | 26 | 1.4 |
| [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | . | [Intend to work O/S] | 12 | . | 3 | . | 4 | . |
| | | | | | [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 164 | 66.4 | 152 | 70.4 | Metropolitan | 158 | 77.8 | 182 | 80.2 | 180 | 82.6 |
| Major urban centre | 48 | 19.4 | 37 | 17.1 | Regional centre | 30 | 14.8 | 34 | 15.0 | 30 | 13.8 |
| Regional city/large town | 27 | 10.9 | 24 | 11.1 | Large rural town | 10 | 4.9 | 8 | 3.5 | 4 | 1.8 |
| Smaller town | 6 | 2.4 | 2 | 0.9 | Medium rural town | 3 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.9 | 2 | 0.9 |
| Small community | 2 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.5 | Small rural town | 2 | 1.0 | . | . | 2 | 0.9 |
| [Intend to work O/S] | 17 | . | 17 | . | Remote/very remote community | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | . | . |
| [Missing/Unknown] | 2 | . | 5 | . | [Intend to work O/S] | 41 | . | 23 | . | 35 | . |
| | | | | | [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 1,120 | 61.1 | 1,196 | 61.5 | Metropolitan | 1,380 | 68.3 | 1,516 | 70.8 | 1,434 | 70.1 |
| Major urban centre | 358 | 19.5 | 344 | 17.7 | Regional centre | 351 | 17.4 | 367 | 17.1 | 314 | 15.4 |
| Regional city/large town | 243 | 13.3 | 278 | 14.3 | Large rural town | 155 | 7.7 | 149 | 7.0 | 161 | 7.9 |
| Smaller town | 77 | 4.2 | 94 | 4.8 | Medium rural town | 81 | 4.0 | 66 | 3.1 | 78 | 3.8 |
| Small community | 35 | 1.9 | 33 | 1.7 | Small rural town | 32 | 1.6 | 27 | 1.3 | 32 | 1.6 |
| [Intend to work O/S] | 19 | . | 19 | . | Remote/very remote community | 22 | 1.1 | 15 | 0.7 | 26 | 1.3 |
| [Missing/Unknown] | 2 | . | 5 | . | [Intend to work O/S] | 53 | . | 26 | . | 39 | . |
| | | | | | [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Note: Direct comparisons to data prior to 2023 are not possible as the MSOD survey has moved to collect data using the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification.

12. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000-99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000-24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

13. Geographical classification used from 2023 - Modified Monash Model (MMM); **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,000); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

Preferred location for future practice – by rural background

The data highlights a stronger preference for rural practice among students who self-reported as coming from a rural background, with almost 65.1 per cent indicating a preference for a future career outside a metropolitan area (Table 29, Figure 5, Figure 6). This compares with only 16.9 per cent of respondents from non-rural backgrounds.

For rural background students, preference for work in a rural town or remote community was higher for domestic than international students (39.6 vs 20.0 per cent).

Table 29. Preferred location for future practice – by rural background

| Preferred location for future practice ¹⁴ | 2021 | | 2022 | | Preferred location for future practice ¹⁵ | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Non Rural | Rural | Non Rural | Rural | | Non Rural | Rural | Non Rural | Rural | Non Rural | Rural |
| Domestic Students | | | | Domestic Students | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 70.6 | 29.2 | 71.6 | 27.7 | Metropolitan | 79.4 | 35.4 | 80.8 | 38.2 | 82.6 | 35.0 |
| Major urban centre | 17.7 | 25.2 | 16.1 | 22.7 | Regional centre | 13.2 | 29.2 | 13.1 | 29.8 | 11.5 | 25.4 |
| Regional city/large town | 8.9 | 27.7 | 9.2 | 30.8 | Large rural town | 4.3 | 17.5 | 4.0 | 16.9 | 3.3 | 21.3 |
| Smaller town | 2.3 | 11.1 | 2.5 | 13.6 | Medium rural town | 1.7 | 11.1 | 1.4 | 8.9 | 1.9 | 9.7 |
| Small community | 0.5 | 6.8 | 0.7 | 5.2 | Small rural town | 0.4 | 5.0 | 0.6 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 4.5 |
| | | | | Remote/very remote community | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1.0 1.8 0.1 2.6 0.3 4.1 | | | | | | | |
| International Students | | | | International Students | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 69.5 | 40.7 | 73.1 | 33.3 | Metropolitan | 80.4 | 42.9 | 82.9 | 43.8 | 86.2 | 33.3 |
| Major urban centre | 18.2 | 29.6 | 15.9 | 33.3 | Regional centre | 13.2 | 35.7 | 14.2 | 25.0 | 11.3 | 46.7 |
| Regional city/large town | 9.5 | 22.2 | 10.0 | 26.7 | Large rural town | 5.3 | 0 | 2.4 | 18.8 | 1.5 | 6.7 |
| Smaller town | 1.8 | 7.4 | 1.0 | 0 | Medium rural town | 1.1 | 7.1 | 0 | 12.5 | 1.0 | 0 |
| Small community | 0.9 | 0 | 0 | 6.7 | Small rural town | 0 | 14.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13.3 |
| | | | | Remote/very remote community | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 0 0 0.5 0 0 0 | | | | | | | |
| All Students | | | | All Students | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 70.5 | 30.0 | 71.8 | 27.9 | Metropolitan | 79.5 | 35.6 | 81.1 | 38.4 | 83.1 | 34.9 |
| Major urban centre | 17.7 | 25.5 | 16.1 | 23.0 | Regional centre | 13.2 | 29.4 | 13.2 | 29.6 | 11.4 | 26.0 |
| Regional city/large town | 9.0 | 27.4 | 9.3 | 30.7 | Large rural town | 4.5 | 17.0 | 3.8 | 17.0 | 3.1 | 20.9 |
| Smaller town | 2.2 | 10.8 | 2.3 | 13.2 | Medium rural town | 1.6 | 11.0 | 1.2 | 9.0 | 1.7 | 9.5 |
| Small community | 0.6 | 6.4 | 0.6 | 5.3 | Small rural town | 0.3 | 5.2 | 0.6 | 3.5 | 0.4 | 4.7 |
| | | | | Remote/very remote community | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 0.9 1.7 0.1 2.5 0.3 4.0 | | | | | | | |

Note: Percentages shown were calculated after exclusion of respondents not intending to work in Australia, or for whom data was not available (2021 = 21/1854, 2022 = 24/1969, 2023 = 53/2074, 2024 = 26/2166, 2025 = 39/2084)

14. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

15. Geographical classification used from 2023 - Modified Monash Model (MMM): **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

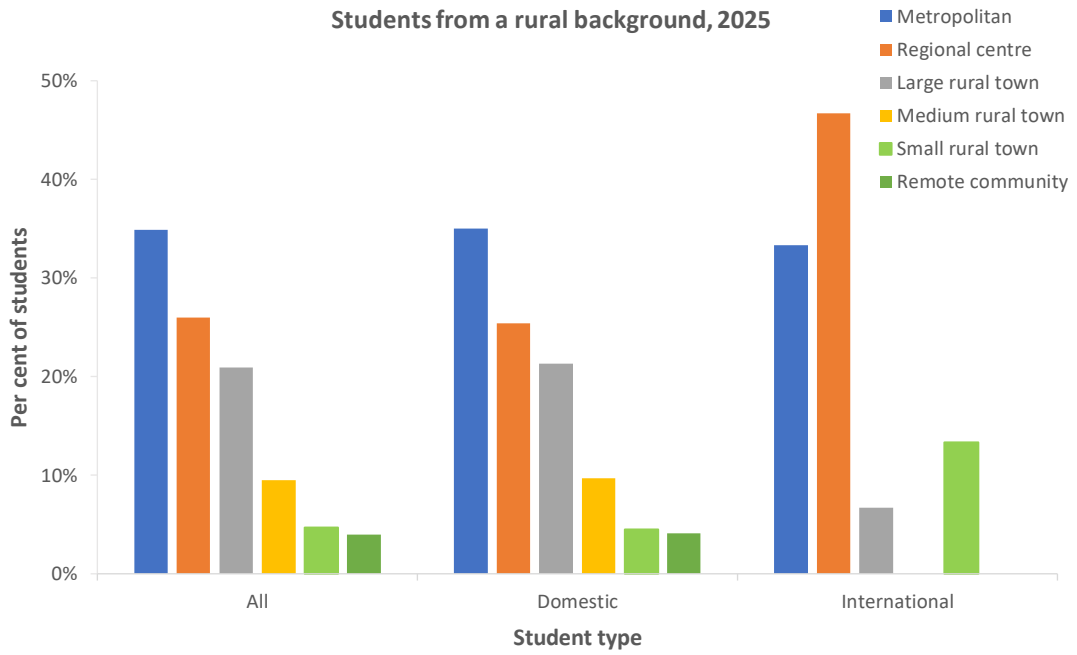


Figure 5. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a rural background

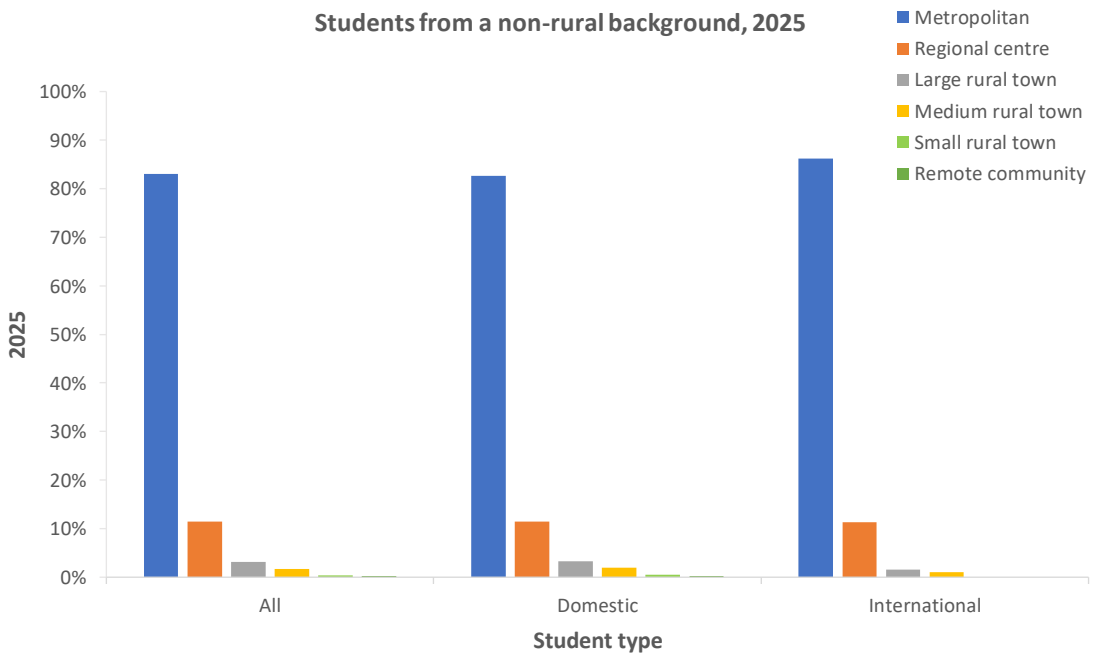


Figure 6. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a non-rural background

Preferred location for future practice – by rural placement duration

The data show increased rates of preference for rural practice by students who undertook a rural placement (Table 30). The length of rural placement corresponds with increasing level of rural career preferences: almost 19 per cent of respondents who completed up to 6 months of rural placement indicated a preference for a career outside of capital cities, compared to almost 72 per cent of those who completed more than 12 months, although the likelihood of bias must be noted, in that those already interested in rural practice are probably those seeking a longer rural placement.

Duration of rural practice also corresponds with increasing levels of preference for careers in more rural and remote locations. Of those undertaking a rural placement for more than a year, 42.6 per cent expressed a preference for future practice in a rural town or remote community. In contrast, this preference was 27.5 per cent for those who undertook a rural placement of 6 to 12 months, and only 6.7 and 3.3 per cent respectively where it was less than 6 months or there was no rural placement (Figure 7).

Table 30. Preferred location for future practice – by rural placement duration

| Preferred location for future practice by rural placement ¹⁶ | 2021 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | No placement | Up to 6 months | 6 to 12months | > 12months | No placement | Up to 6months | 6 to 12months | > 12months |
| Capital city | 79.5 | 61.5 | 48.4 | 35.2 | 75.9 | 70.7 | 45.6 | 25.8 |
| Major urban centre | 14.3 | 21.9 | 21.7 | 22.4 | 16.2 | 16.3 | 18.4 | 24.2 |
| Regional city or large town | 4.9 | 11.2 | 20.5 | 28.0 | 5.8 | 9.7 | 23.2 | 32.9 |
| Smaller town | 0.7 | 3.7 | 6.5 | 10.4 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 10.5 | 11.9 |
| Small community | 0.7 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.3 | 5.2 |

| Preferred location for future practice by rural placement ¹⁷ | 2023 | | | | 2024 | | | | 2025 | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| | No placement | Up to 6 months | 6 to 12months | > 12months | No placement | Up to 6months | 6 to 12months | > 12months | No placement | Up to 6 months | 6 to 12months | > 12months |
| Metropolitan | 77.8 | 80.0 | 54.1 | 33.8 | 89.8 | 76.4 | 54.6 | 31.4 | 87.8 | 81.1 | 50.5 | 28.2 |
| Regional centre | 13.1 | 12.8 | 22.6 | 32.3 | 7.4 | 15.6 | 22.7 | 37.5 | 8.9 | 12.2 | 22.0 | 29.1 |
| Large rural town | 4.2 | 4.2 | 12.1 | 19.0 | 2.0 | 4.6 | 13.0 | 17.4 | 2.3 | 3.4 | 11.6 | 25.9 |
| Medium rural town | 2.9 | 1.8 | 6.7 | 8.9 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 5.8 | 9.4 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 10.4 | 8.5 |
| Small rural town | 1.3 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 3.7 | . | 1.3 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 4.7 |
| Remote/very remote community | 0.7 | 0.4 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 2.4 | 3.5 |

Note: Percentages shown were calculated after exclusion of respondents not intending to work in Australia, or for whom data was not available (2021 = 21/1854, 2022 = 24/1969, 2023 = 53/2074, 2024 = 26/2166, 2025 = 39/2084)

16. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

17. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

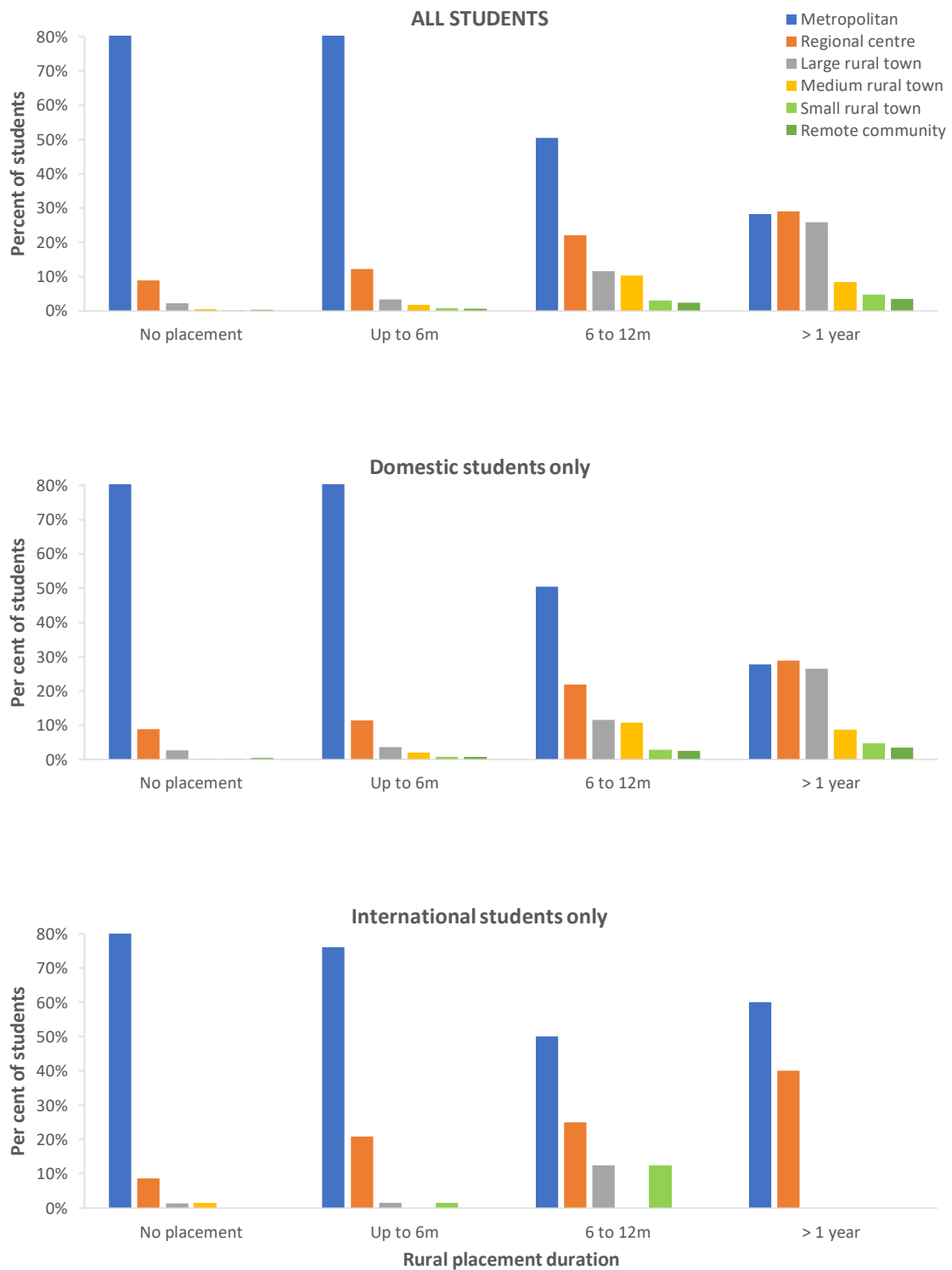


Figure 7. Percentage of 2025 students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

Preferred location for future practice – by rural club membership

Membership in a rural club continue to be a strong predictor of preferred work location (Table 31). A binary logistic regression¹⁸ of 2025 data showed that club members had 6.1 times the odds of expressing a preference to practice outside metropolitan regions compared to non-members (OR = 6.094, 95% CI 4.849–7.660, $p < 0.001$). This is an expected correlation, as those joining a rural club likely already have an interest in a future rural career.

Table 31. Preferred location for future practice – by rural club membership (percentages)

| Preferred location for future practice ¹⁹ | 2021 | | 2022 | | Preferred location for future practice ²⁰ | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|----------|------|----------|------|--|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | Non club | Club | Non club | Club | | Non club | Club | Non club | Club | Non club | Club |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 70.3 | 34.4 | 69.3 | 34.1 | Metropolitan | 75.3 | 44.7 | 79.4 | 37.3 | 77.7 | 37.2 |
| Major urban centre | 16.3 | 27.9 | 16.2 | 22.1 | Regional centre | 15.3 | 23.4 | 12.8 | 32.4 | 12.9 | 24.2 |
| Regional city/large town | 9.4 | 24.3 | 10.2 | 27.5 | Large rural town | 5.3 | 14.6 | 4.7 | 16.2 | 5.2 | 19.9 |
| Smaller town | 2.7 | 9.0 | 2.7 | 12.9 | Medium rural town | 2.2 | 9.6 | 1.8 | 8.3 | 2.0 | 11.5 |
| Small community | 1.1 | 4.5 | 1.3 | 3.4 | Small rural town | 0.7 | 4.1 | 0.7 | 3.6 | 0.8 | 4.3 |
| | | | | | Remote/very remote community | 0.5 | 3.1 | 0.4 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 2.9 |
| <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 65.3 | 25.0 | 65.9 | 45.8 | Metropolitan | 66.1 | 42.8 | 75.5 | 35.3 | 71.8 | 58.3 |
| Major urban centre | 17.4 | 25.0 | 15.4 | 16.7 | Regional centre | 11.3 | 28.6 | 12.0 | 35.3 | 10.8 | 33.3 |
| Regional city/large town | 8.6 | 25.0 | 7.5 | 33.3 | Large rural town | 3.5 | 14.3 | 1.7 | 23.5 | 1.7 | 0.0 |
| Smaller town | 0.0 | 25.0 | 0.5 | 4.2 | Medium rural town | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 5.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Small community | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | Small rural town | 0.4 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 8.3 |
| | | | | | Remote/very remote community | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 7.0 | 0.0 | 7.9 | 0.0 | <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 17.4 | 7.2 | 9.9 | 0.0 | 14.5 | 0.0 |
| <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.8 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.0 | <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capital city | 69.4 | 33.9 | 68.8 | 34.7 | Metropolitan | 74.0 | 44.7 | 78.9 | 37.2 | 76.9 | 37.8 |
| Major urban centre | 16.5 | 27.7 | 16.1 | 21.8 | Regional centre | 14.7 | 23.6 | 12.7 | 32.5 | 12.6 | 24.5 |
| Regional city/large town | 9.3 | 24.3 | 9.9 | 27.8 | Large rural town | 5.0 | 14.6 | 4.3 | 16.5 | 4.7 | 19.3 |
| Smaller town | 2.2 | 9.8 | 2.4 | 12.4 | Medium rural town | 2.1 | 9.3 | 1.6 | 8.2 | 1.8 | 11.2 |
| Small community | 1.1 | 4.3 | 1.2 | 3.2 | Small rural town | 0.6 | 4.2 | 0.6 | 3.5 | 0.8 | 4.4 |
| | | | | | Remote/very remote community | 0.4 | 3.0 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 2.8 |
| <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 0.0 | <i>[Intend to work O/S]</i> | 3.2 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 0.4 | 2.4 | 0.0 |
| <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | <i>[Missing/Unknown]</i> | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

18. Factors considered were rural club membership and preference of future practice in capital city or elsewhere.

19. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000-99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000–24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

20. Geographical classification used from 2023: Modified Monash Model (MMM); **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,000); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

Interests for future practice – teaching

Interest in teaching as part of a future medical career remains high however decreased slightly to 80.2 per cent in 2025, continuing to be of greater interest to domestic than international students (Table 32).

Table 32. Interest in teaching as part of medical career

| Interest in teaching | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1,374 | 86.5 | 1,455 | 84.1 | 1,474 | 80.5 | 1,585 | 82.7 | 1,488 | 81.3 |
| No | 53 | 3.3 | 67 | 3.9 | 105 | 5.7 | 82 | 4.3 | 72 | 3.9 |
| Undecided | 161 | 10.1 | 209 | 12.1 | 251 | 13.7 | 249 | 13.0 | 271 | 14.8 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 221 | 83.1 | 176 | 73.9 | 190 | 77.9 | 190 | 76.0 | 183 | 72.3 |
| No | 10 | 3.8 | 13 | 5.5 | 16 | 6.6 | 20 | 8.0 | 13 | 5.1 |
| Undecided | 35 | 13.2 | 49 | 20.6 | 38 | 15.6 | 40 | 16.0 | 57 | 22.5 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1,595 | 86.0 | 1,631 | 82.8 | 1,664 | 80.2 | 1,775 | 81.9 | 1,671 | 80.2 |
| No | 63 | 3.4 | 80 | 4.1 | 121 | 5.8 | 102 | 4.7 | 85 | 4.1 |
| Undecided | 196 | 10.6 | 258 | 13.1 | 289 | 13.9 | 289 | 13.3 | 328 | 15.7 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Interests for future practice – research

Interest in research as part of a future medical career decreased to 56 per cent in 2025 but was again of slightly more interest to international than domestic students (Table 33).

Table 33. Interest in research as part of medical career

| Interest in research | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 933 | 58.8 | 962 | 55.6 | 924 | 50.5 | 1,116 | 58.2 | 1,019 | 55.7 |
| No | 310 | 19.5 | 396 | 22.9 | 438 | 23.9 | 383 | 20.0 | 370 | 20.2 |
| Undecided | 345 | 21.7 | 373 | 21.5 | 468 | 25.6 | 417 | 21.8 | 442 | 24.1 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 169 | 63.5 | 138 | 58.0 | 133 | 54.5 | 150 | 60.0 | 148 | 58.5 |
| No | 36 | 13.5 | 39 | 16.4 | 41 | 16.8 | 42 | 16.8 | 40 | 15.8 |
| Undecided | 61 | 22.9 | 61 | 25.6 | 70 | 28.7 | 58 | 23.2 | 65 | 25.7 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1,102 | 59.4 | 1,100 | 55.9 | 1,057 | 51.0 | 1,266 | 58.4 | 1,167 | 56.0 |
| No | 346 | 18.7 | 435 | 22.1 | 479 | 23.1 | 425 | 19.6 | 410 | 19.7 |
| Undecided | 406 | 21.9 | 434 | 22.0 | 538 | 25.9 | 475 | 21.9 | 507 | 24.3 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Interests for future practice – Indigenous health

Interest in Indigenous health as a part of a future medical career decreased in 2025 (Table 34). As in previous years, there was a marked difference in interest between domestic and international student respondents (48.1 vs 24.5 per cent).

Table 34. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

| Interest in Indigenous health | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % | <i>n</i> | % |
| Domestic Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 862 | 54.3 | 889 | 51.4 | 931 | 50.9 | 943 | 49.2 | 880 | 48.1 |
| No | 277 | 17.4 | 309 | 17.9 | 363 | 19.8 | 382 | 19.9 | 375 | 20.5 |
| Undecided | 449 | 28.3 | 533 | 30.8 | 536 | 29.3 | 591 | 30.8 | 576 | 31.5 |
| Total | 1,588 | | 1,731 | | 1,830 | | 1,916 | | 1,831 | |
| International Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 81 | 30.5 | 73 | 30.7 | 67 | 27.5 | 75 | 30.0 | 62 | 24.5 |
| No | 75 | 28.2 | 73 | 30.7 | 85 | 34.8 | 65 | 26.0 | 78 | 30.8 |
| Undecided | 110 | 41.4 | 92 | 38.7 | 92 | 37.7 | 110 | 44.0 | 113 | 44.7 |
| Total | 266 | | 238 | | 244 | | 250 | | 253 | |
| All Students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 943 | 50.9 | 962 | 48.9 | 998 | 48.1 | 1,018 | 47.0 | 942 | 45.2 |
| No | 352 | 19.0 | 382 | 19.4 | 448 | 21.6 | 447 | 20.6 | 453 | 21.7 |
| Undecided | 559 | 30.2 | 625 | 31.7 | 628 | 30.3 | 701 | 32.4 | 689 | 33.1 |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |

Respondents from a rural background continue to express greater interest in Indigenous health being part of their future career than those from a non-rural background (Table 35).

Table 35. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background and placement length (percentages)

| Interest in Indigenous health | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | Non-rural | Rural | Non-rural | Rural | Non-rural | Rural | Non-rural | Rural | Non-rural | Rural |
| All students | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 47.1 | 63.5 | 46.7 | 56.0 | 44.1 | 60.1 | 43.3 | 58.9 | 40.2 | 59.1 |
| No | 20.7 | 13.1 | 20.8 | 14.9 | 24.1 | 14.2 | 22.9 | 13.5 | 24.5 | 14.1 |
| Undecided | 32.2 | 23.4 | 32.5 | 29.1 | 31.8 | 25.7 | 33.8 | 27.7 | 35.3 | 26.8 |
| No rural placement | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 38.0 | 56.3 | 39.8 | 44.8 | 28.5 | 53.2 | 34.6 | 48.3 | 30.7 | 44.2 |
| No | 26.0 | 21.1 | 25.4 | 24.1 | 33.8 | 24.7 | 28.4 | 11.2 | 32.1 | 22.1 |
| Undecided | 36.0 | 22.5 | 34.7 | 31.0 | 37.7 | 22.1 | 37.0 | 40.4 | 37.2 | 33.6 |
| < 6 months rural placement | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 49.6 | 58.2 | 46.3 | 51.3 | 47.0 | 56.4 | 44.4 | 57.2 | 42.4 | 58.6 |
| No | 18.7 | 19.4 | 20.7 | 16.0 | 22.5 | 16.6 | 19.7 | 13.8 | 22.4 | 14.3 |
| Undecided | 31.7 | 22.4 | 33.0 | 32.7 | 30.5 | 27.0 | 35.9 | 28.9 | 35.2 | 27.1 |
| 6-12 months rural placement | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 57.4 | 70.2 | 56.6 | 58.7 | 60.4 | 70.1 | 56.8 | 66.7 | 56.4 | 64.7 |
| No | 19.3 | 5.8 | 17.1 | 11.1 | 12.9 | 9.7 | 19.7 | 13.2 | 13.7 | 12.1 |
| Undecided | 23.3 | 24.0 | 26.3 | 30.2 | 26.7 | 20.1 | 23.5 | 20.2 | 29.9 | 23.3 |
| > 12 months rural placement | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 54.4 | 67.3 | 51.9 | 65.0 | 58.6 | 56.7 | 53.8 | 60.1 | 43.6 | 65.2 |
| No | 12.1 | 7.9 | 14.1 | 12.8 | 15.9 | 10.2 | 17.9 | 14.7 | 19.5 | 10.3 |
| Undecided | 33.6 | 24.8 | 34.1 | 22.2 | 25.5 | 33.1 | 28.2 | 25.2 | 36.8 | 24.5 |

Preferred specialty of future practice

Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician and General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) continue to consistently rank as respondents' top 2 preferred specialties (Table 36). In 2025, Adult Medicine was preferred by 16.0 per cent of respondents (15.5 per cent of domestic students vs. 19.4 per cent of international students), while General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) was preferred by 15.6 per cent of respondents - 16.8 per cent of domestic students vs. 7.1 per cent of international students (Table 37, Table 38).

Surgery and Anaesthesia likewise continue to consistently rank as third or fourth most preferred specialties. In 2025, Anaesthesia was preferred by 14.3 per cent (14.9 per cent of domestic students vs. 9.9 per cent of international students), while Surgery was preferred by 13.5 per cent of respondents (13.2 per cent of domestic students vs. 15.8 per cent of international students).

Paediatrics and Child Health, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology continue to consistently rank in the top 10.

Table 36. First preference of specialty for future practice – All students

| First preference specialty of future practice | 2021 | | | 2022 | | | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|------|
| | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank |
| Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician | 350 | 18.9 | 1 | 309 | 15.7 | 1 | 346 | 16.7 | 1 | 375 | 17.3 | 1 | 333 | 16.0 | 1 |
| Anaesthesia | 185 | 10.0 | 4 | 239 | 12.2 | 3 | 278 | 13.4 | 2 | 285 | 13.2 | 3 | 297 | 14.3 | 2 |
| Surgery | 241 | 13.0 | 3 | 237 | 12.1 | 4 | 260 | 12.5 | 3 | 311 | 14.4 | 2 | 281 | 13.5 | 3 |
| General Practice | 252 | 13.6 | 2 | 256 | 13.0 | 2 | 219 | 10.6 | 4 | 204 | 9.4 | 4 | 184 | 8.8 | 4 |
| Paediatrics & Child Health | 139 | 7.5 | 6 | 148 | 7.5 | 6 | 168 | 8.1 | 5 | 160 | 7.4 | 5 | 163 | 7.8 | 5 |
| Emergency Medicine | 141 | 7.6 | 5 | 164 | 8.3 | 5 | 145 | 7.0 | 7 | 144 | 6.6 | 7 | 153 | 7.3 | 6 |
| Rural Generalist | 86 | 4.6 | 9 | 115 | 5.8 | 8 | 148 | 7.1 | 6 | 123 | 5.7 | 8 | 141 | 6.8 | 7 |
| Psychiatry | 104 | 5.6 | 7 | 125 | 6.4 | 7 | 134 | 6.5 | 8 | 150 | 6.9 | 6 | 120 | 5.8 | 8 |
| Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 104 | 5.6 | 7 | 110 | 5.6 | 9 | 92 | 4.4 | 9 | 105 | 4.8 | 9 | 115 | 5.5 | 9 |
| Not yet decided | 38 | 2.1 | 12 | 25 | 1.3 | 14 | 38 | 1.8 | 12 | 44 | 2.0 | 12 | 59 | 2.8 | 10 |
| Radiology | 43 | 2.3 | 11 | 42 | 2.1 | 11 | 47 | 2.3 | 11 | 56 | 2.6 | 11 | 57 | 2.7 | 11 |
| Ophthalmology | 26 | 1.4 | 13 | 37 | 1.9 | 12 | 29 | 1.4 | 13 | 41 | 1.9 | 13 | 46 | 2.2 | 12 |
| Dermatology | 20 | 1.1 | 15 | 31 | 1.6 | 13 | 28 | 1.4 | 14 | 39 | 1.8 | 14 | 44 | 2.1 | 13 |
| Intensive Care Medicine | 53 | 2.9 | 10 | 69 | 3.5 | 10 | 61 | 2.9 | 10 | 71 | 3.3 | 10 | 44 | 2.1 | 13 |
| Palliative Medicine | 21 | 1.1 | 14 | 13 | 0.7 | 16 | 15 | 0.7 | 15 | 14 | 0.6 | 16 | 11 | 0.5 | 15 |
| Pathology | 8 | 0.4 | 16 | 16 | 0.8 | 15 | 12 | 0.6 | 17 | 16 | 0.7 | 15 | 11 | 0.5 | 15 |
| Sport & Exercise Medicine | 5 | 0.3 | 19 | 3 | 0.2 | 20 | 13 | 0.6 | 16 | 5 | 0.2 | 17 | 8 | 0.4 | 17 |
| Radiation Oncology | 8 | 0.4 | 16 | 6 | 0.3 | 18 | 9 | 0.4 | 19 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 5 | 0.2 | 18 |
| Public Health Medicine | 5 | 0.3 | 19 | 3 | 0.2 | 20 | 10 | 0.5 | 18 | 5 | 0.2 | 17 | 4 | 0.2 | 19 |
| Rehabilitation Medicine | 4 | 0.2 | 22 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 1 | 0.0 | 24 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 4 | 0.2 | 19 |
| Addiction Medicine | 6 | 0.3 | 18 | 4 | 0.2 | 19 | 5 | 0.2 | 21 | 4 | 0.2 | 20 | 2 | 0.1 | 21 |
| Medical Administration | 5 | 0.3 | 19 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 6 | 0.3 | 20 | 3 | 0.1 | 21 | 1 | 0.0 | 22 |
| Pain Medicine | 1 | 0.1 | 25 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.0 | 24 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 1 | 0.0 | 22 |
| Non-Specialist Hospital Practice | 4 | 0.2 | 22 | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | 3 | 0.1 | 23 | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Occupational & Environmental Med. | 1 | 0.1 | 25 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.0 | 24 | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Sexual Health Medicine | 3 | 0.2 | 24 | 9 | 0.5 | 17 | 5 | 0.2 | 21 | 5 | 0.2 | 17 | . | . | . |
| [Missing/Unknown] | 1 | . | . | 3 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 1,853 | | | 1,966 | | | 2,074 | | | 2,166 | | | 2,084 | | |

Table 37. First preference of specialty for future practice – Domestic students

| First preference specialty of future practice | 2021 | | | 2022 | | | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank |
| Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician | 304 | 19.2 | 1 | 257 | 14.9 | 1 | 300 | 16.4 | 1 | 331 | 17.3 | 1 | 284 | 15.5 | 1 |
| Anaesthesia | 160 | 10.1 | 4 | 211 | 12.2 | 3 | 251 | 13.7 | 2 | 259 | 13.5 | 2 | 272 | 14.9 | 2 |
| Surgery | 192 | 12.1 | 3 | 204 | 11.8 | 4 | 202 | 11.0 | 3 | 257 | 13.4 | 3 | 241 | 13.2 | 3 |
| General Practice | 230 | 14.5 | 2 | 227 | 13.1 | 2 | 198 | 10.8 | 4 | 181 | 9.4 | 4 | 170 | 9.3 | 4 |
| Paediatrics & Child Health | 125 | 7.9 | 5 | 135 | 7.8 | 6 | 152 | 8.3 | 5 | 149 | 7.8 | 5 | 144 | 7.9 | 5 |
| Rural Generalist | 79 | 5.0 | 9 | 113 | 6.5 | 8 | 147 | 8.0 | 6 | 118 | 6.2 | 8 | 137 | 7.5 | 6 |
| Emergency Medicine | 111 | 7.0 | 6 | 137 | 7.9 | 5 | 124 | 6.8 | 7 | 123 | 6.4 | 7 | 132 | 7.2 | 7 |
| Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 91 | 5.7 | 8 | 98 | 5.7 | 9 | 85 | 4.6 | 9 | 94 | 4.9 | 9 | 99 | 5.4 | 8 |
| Psychiatry | 92 | 5.8 | 7 | 116 | 6.7 | 7 | 119 | 6.5 | 8 | 126 | 6.6 | 6 | 98 | 5.4 | 9 |
| Not yet decided | 29 | 1.8 | 12 | 21 | 1.2 | 14 | 33 | 1.8 | 12 | 43 | 2.2 | 12 | 51 | 2.8 | 10 |
| Radiology | 33 | 2.1 | 11 | 36 | 2.1 | 11 | 42 | 2.3 | 11 | 46 | 2.4 | 11 | 48 | 2.6 | 11 |
| Intensive Care Medicine | 45 | 2.8 | 10 | 59 | 3.4 | 10 | 55 | 3.0 | 10 | 65 | 3.4 | 10 | 40 | 2.2 | 12 |
| Dermatology | 17 | 1.1 | 14 | 30 | 1.7 | 13 | 26 | 1.4 | 14 | 37 | 1.9 | 13 | 39 | 2.1 | 13 |
| Ophthalmology | 25 | 1.6 | 13 | 31 | 1.8 | 12 | 27 | 1.5 | 13 | 37 | 1.9 | 13 | 38 | 2.1 | 14 |
| Palliative Medicine | 16 | 1.0 | 15 | 11 | 0.6 | 16 | 9 | 0.5 | 17 | 10 | 0.5 | 16 | 10 | 0.5 | 15 |
| Sport & Exercise Medicine | 4 | 0.3 | 19 | 3 | 0.2 | 20 | 12 | 0.7 | 15 | 5 | 0.3 | 17 | 7 | 0.4 | 16 |
| Pathology | 6 | 0.4 | 17 | 15 | 0.9 | 15 | 9 | 0.5 | 17 | 16 | 0.8 | 15 | 6 | 0.3 | 17 |
| Radiation Oncology | 8 | 0.5 | 16 | 5 | 0.3 | 18 | 8 | 0.4 | 19 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 5 | 0.3 | 18 |
| Public Health Medicine | 4 | 0.3 | 19 | 3 | 0.2 | 20 | 10 | 0.5 | 16 | 4 | 0.2 | 18 | 4 | 0.2 | 19 |
| Addiction Medicine | 5 | 0.3 | 18 | 4 | 0.2 | 19 | 5 | 0.3 | 21 | 4 | 0.2 | 18 | 2 | 0.1 | 20 |
| Rehabilitation Medicine | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | . | . | . | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 2 | 0.1 | 20 |
| Medical Administration | 3 | 0.2 | 21 | 2 | 0.1 | 22 | 6 | 0.3 | 20 | 3 | 0.2 | 21 | 1 | 0.1 | 22 |
| Pain Medicine | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.1 | 22 |
| Non-Specialist Hospital Practice | 2 | 0.1 | 23 | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | 3 | 0.2 | 23 | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Occupational & Environmental Medicine | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.1 | 24 | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Sexual Health Medicine | 3 | 0.2 | 21 | 8 | 0.5 | 17 | 5 | 0.3 | 21 | 4 | 0.2 | 18 | . | . | . |
| [Missing/Unknown] | 1 | . | . | 2 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 1,587 | | | 1,729 | | | 1,830 | | | 1,916 | | | 1,831 | | |

Table 38. First preference of specialty for future practice – International students

| First preference specialty of future practice | 2021 | | | 2022 | | | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|------------|------|------|
| | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank | n | % | Rank |
| Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician | 46 | 17.3 | 2 | 52 | 21.9 | 1 | 46 | 18.9 | 2 | 44 | 17.6 | 2 | 49 | 19.4 | 1 |
| Surgery | 49 | 18.4 | 1 | 33 | 13.9 | 2 | 58 | 23.8 | 1 | 54 | 21.6 | 1 | 40 | 15.8 | 2 |
| Anaesthesia | 25 | 9.4 | 4 | 28 | 11.8 | 4 | 27 | 11.1 | 3 | 26 | 10.4 | 3 | 25 | 9.9 | 3 |
| Psychiatry | 12 | 4.5 | 8 | 9 | 3.8 | 9 | 15 | 6.1 | 7 | 24 | 9.6 | 4 | 22 | 8.7 | 4 |
| Emergency Medicine | 30 | 11.3 | 3 | 27 | 11.4 | 5 | 21 | 8.6 | 4 | 21 | 8.4 | 6 | 21 | 8.3 | 5 |
| Paediatrics & Child Health | 14 | 5.3 | 6 | 13 | 5.5 | 6 | 16 | 6.6 | 6 | 11 | 4.4 | 7 | 19 | 7.5 | 6 |
| Obstetrics & Gynaecology | 13 | 4.9 | 7 | 12 | 5.1 | 7 | 7 | 2.9 | 8 | 11 | 4.4 | 7 | 16 | 6.3 | 7 |
| General Practice | 22 | 8.3 | 5 | 29 | 12.2 | 3 | 21 | 8.6 | 4 | 23 | 9.2 | 5 | 14 | 5.5 | 8 |
| Radiology | 10 | 3.8 | 9 | 6 | 2.5 | 10 | 5 | 2.0 | 11 | 10 | 4.0 | 9 | 9 | 3.6 | 9 |
| Ophthalmology | 1 | 0.4 | 19 | 6 | 2.5 | 10 | 2 | 0.8 | 14 | 4 | 1.6 | 12 | 8 | 3.2 | 10 |
| Not yet decided | 9 | 3.4 | 10 | 4 | 1.7 | 12 | 5 | 2.0 | 11 | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | 8 | 3.2 | 10 |
| Dermatology | 3 | 1.1 | 14 | 1 | 0.4 | 15 | 2 | 0.8 | 14 | 2 | 0.8 | 14 | 5 | 2.0 | 12 |
| Pathology | 2 | 0.8 | 16 | 1 | 0.4 | 15 | 3 | 1.2 | 13 | . | . | . | 5 | 2.0 | 12 |
| Intensive Care Medicine | 8 | 3.0 | 11 | 10 | 4.2 | 8 | 6 | 2.5 | 9 | 6 | 2.4 | 10 | 4 | 1.6 | 14 |
| Rural Generalist | 7 | 2.6 | 12 | 2 | 0.8 | 13 | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | 5 | 2.0 | 11 | 4 | 1.6 | 14 |
| Rehabilitation Medicine | 3 | 1.1 | 14 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | . | . | . | 2 | 0.8 | 16 |
| Palliative Medicine | 5 | 1.9 | 13 | 2 | 0.8 | 13 | 6 | 2.5 | 9 | 4 | 1.6 | 12 | 1 | 0.4 | 17 |
| Sport & Exercise Medicine | 1 | 0.4 | 19 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 17 |
| Addiction Medicine | 1 | 0.4 | 19 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Medical Administration | 2 | 0.8 | 16 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Non-Specialist Hospital Practice | 2 | 0.8 | 16 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Occupational & Environmental Medicine | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Pain Medicine | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2 | 0.8 | 14 | . | . | . |
| Public Health Medicine | 1 | 0.4 | 19 | . | . | . | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | . | . | . |
| Radiation Oncology | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 15 | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Sexual Health Medicine | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 15 | . | . | . | 1 | 0.4 | 16 | . | . | . |
| [Missing/Unknown] | . | . | . | 1 | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . |
| Total | 266 | | | 237 | | | 244 | | | 250 | | | 253 | | |

Factors influencing specialty choice for future practice

Table 39 shows the score and rank of various factors that respondents say influenced their interest in their most preferred specialty. The students were asked to rank each factor from a scale of 1 “not at all” influential, to 5 “a great deal” of influence.

Consistently over the years, two factors have ranked highest in influencing specialty preference – Alignment with personal values, and Atmosphere/work culture – both again ranked first and second in 2025 (Table 39).

The least influential factors were litigation/insurance costs, partners’ occupation and parents/relatives. Other factors relating to finance (such as, financial costs of medical school education and/or debt and costs of vocational training) also continue to rank low down on the list.

Overall, there continues to be very little change in the ranking of these factors.

Table 39. Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine

| Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | Mean | Rank | Mean | Rank | Mean | Rank | Mean | Rank | Mean | Rank |
| Alignment with personal values | 4.16 | 2 | 4.21 | 1 | 4.26 | 1 | 4.27 | 1 | 4.32 | 1 |
| Atmosphere/work culture typical of the discipline | 4.17 | 1 | 4.18 | 2 | 4.24 | 2 | 4.19 | 2 | 4.21 | 2 |
| Intellectual content of the specialty | 4.01 | 4 | 4.00 | 3 | 4.01 | 4 | 4.04 | 3 | 4.06 | 3 |
| Experience of specialty as a medical student | 4.02 | 3 | 3.99 | 4 | 4.04 | 3 | 4.03 | 4 | 3.99 | 4 |
| General medical school experiences | 3.91 | 5 | 3.87 | 5 | 3.92 | 5 | 3.92 | 5 | 3.96 | 5 |
| Influence of consultants/mentors | 3.83 | 6 | 3.81 | 7 | 3.81 | 7 | 3.75 | 7 | 3.86 | 6 |
| Self-appraisal of own skills/aptitudes | 3.80 | 7 | 3.82 | 6 | 3.82 | 6 | 3.86 | 6 | 3.81 | 7 |
| Opportunity for procedural work | 3.57 | 9 | 3.67 | 9 | 3.60 | 10 | 3.65 | 9 | 3.75 | 8 |
| Perceived job security | 3.40 | 12 | 3.47 | 12 | 3.52 | 12 | 3.57 | 13 | 3.73 | 9 |
| Perceived opportunity to work flexible hours | 3.60 | 8 | 3.68 | 8 | 3.69 | 8 | 3.72 | 8 | 3.64 | 10 |
| Perceived career advancement prospects | 3.34 | 13 | 3.40 | 13 | 3.52 | 13 | 3.59 | 11 | 3.64 | 11 |
| Type of patients typical of the discipline | 3.49 | 11 | 3.51 | 11 | 3.67 | 9 | 3.62 | 10 | 3.58 | 12 |
| Perceived amount of working hours | 3.52 | 10 | 3.57 | 10 | 3.58 | 11 | 3.59 | 12 | 3.53 | 13 |
| Availability of a vocational training placement | 3.21 | 15 | 3.22 | 15 | 3.21 | 14 | 3.26 | 14 | 3.27 | 14 |
| Self-appraisal of own domestic circumstances | 3.30 | 14 | 3.33 | 14 | 3.07 | 17 | 3.18 | 16 | 3.23 | 15 |
| Geographical location of most preferred specialty | 3.01 | 17 | 3.03 | 17 | 3.09 | 16 | 3.13 | 18 | 3.22 | 16 |
| Number of years required to complete training | 3.02 | 16 | 3.07 | 16 | 3.10 | 15 | 3.19 | 15 | 3.18 | 17 |
| Perceived financial prospects | 2.55 | 19 | 2.71 | 19 | 3.05 | 18 | 3.15 | 17 | 3.15 | 18 |
| Awareness of workforce needs in discipline | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 3.14 | 19 |
| Opportunity for research and /or teaching | 2.98 | 18 | 2.88 | 18 | 2.95 | 19 | 2.98 | 19 | 3.02 | 20 |
| Availability of medical services for family | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2.46 | 21 |
| Perceived prestige of the discipline | 2.15 | 20 | 2.14 | 20 | 2.36 | 20 | 2.41 | 20 | 2.41 | 22 |
| Availability of work for partner | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | 2.38 | 23 |
| Influence of parents/relatives | 1.83 | 22 | 1.79 | 24 | 1.88 | 25 | 1.91 | 25 | . | . |
| Influence of partner's occupation | 1.78 | 23 | 1.73 | 25 | 1.99 | 24 | 1.95 | 24 | . | . |
| Financial costs of medical school education and/or debt | 1.74 | 25 | 1.80 | 23 | 2.12 | 22 | 2.27 | 22 | . | . |
| Financial costs of vocational training | 1.75 | 24 | 1.82 | 22 | 2.19 | 21 | 2.30 | 21 | . | . |
| Risk of litigation and associated insurance costs | 2.04 | 21 | 2.01 | 21 | 1.99 | 23 | 2.04 | 23 | . | . |

Note: Scale (of influence): 1 = Not at all to 5 = A great deal

SECTION 6: INTERNSHIP

Accepted internships by state/territory

Final year students were asked to indicate in which state or territory they had accepted an internship position. The largest number of acceptances were for NSW (Table 40). It should be noted that the time of year in which schools administer the survey would have a bearing on whether students had been offered an internship, as does the response rates from students across the different states/territories; thus, the responses presented in the table below do not reflect the final number of internship positions accepted for the 2025 cohort, nor are they necessarily representative.

Table 40. Internship acceptance by state/territory

| Internship acceptance by state/territory | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|--|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % | n | % |
| NSW | 438 | 24.1 | 487 | 25.3 | 504 | 25.0 | 679 | 31.8 | 650 | 31.8 |
| VIC | 552 | 30.3 | 502 | 26.1 | 531 | 26.3 | 610 | 28.6 | 573 | 28.1 |
| QLD | 398 | 21.9 | 372 | 19.3 | 405 | 20.1 | 369 | 17.3 | 297 | 14.5 |
| WA | 219 | 12.0 | 331 | 17.2 | 310 | 15.4 | 269 | 12.6 | 273 | 13.4 |
| SA | 47 | 2.6 | 82 | 4.3 | 146 | 7.2 | 134 | 6.3 | 139 | 6.8 |
| ACT | 56 | 3.1 | 45 | 2.3 | 43 | 2.1 | 9 | 0.4 | 42 | 2.1 |
| TAS | 82 | 4.5 | 82 | 4.3 | 54 | 2.7 | 43 | 2.0 | 37 | 1.8 |
| NT | 27 | 1.5 | 25 | 1.3 | 25 | 1.2 | 21 | 1.0 | 31 | 1.5 |
| <i>[Country other than AUS]</i> | 26 | . | 24 | . | 18 | . | 23 | . | 24 | . |
| <i>[N/A or Missing/Unknown]</i> | 9 | . | 19 | . | 38 | . | 9 | . | 18 | . |
| Total | 1,854 | | 1,969 | | 2,074 | | 2,166 | | 2,084 | |



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