

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDICAL DEANS WELCOMES NEW MEDICAL PLACES TO BUILD A HOMEGROWN GP WORKFORCE

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) has welcomed the Albanese Government's announcement of 50 additional Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for medical students, delivered through a \$30 million investment to strengthen the general practice (GP) workforce.

The new places, to commence in 2028, will be allocated across eight universities: the Australian National University, the University of Queensland, the University of Newcastle, Macquarie University, the University of Notre Dame Australia, the University of New South Wales, Queensland University of Technology, and the University of Western Australia.

Medical Deans CEO, Ms Anita Hobson-Powell, said the announcement reflected a welcome and sustained commitment to growing Australia's own medical workforce.

"We are very pleased to see the Government continuing to invest in additional Commonwealth Supported Places for medical students, and in particular targeting this growth toward general practice and primary care," Ms Hobson-Powell said.

"Our Australian health system depends on a sustainable, home-grown medical workforce. Every additional Commonwealth Supported Place represents a young Australian who will be trained here and learn here in, with and for the communities that need them most."

"Medical Deans looks forward to continuing to work with the Government, our member medical schools and RACGP to ensure this growth in student numbers is matched by the clinical placement capacity, supervision, student support needed and speciality progression into practising GPs."

Medical Deans has also called for reform of the Primary Care (Teaching) Payment for medical students, seeking an increase in the rate of payment to general practices for teaching medical students, and an extension of these payments to include the multidisciplinary teams within general practices – including nurses and allied health professionals, as well as GPs.

Medical Deans' own national workforce data supports the design of the new places. The 2026 Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) National Data Report [shows](#) that hands-on exposure to rural settings is one of the strongest predictors of where graduates go on to work.

Ms Hobson-Powell said this evidence underscored why the design of the new places, with their emphasis on extended general practice rotations, mattered as much as the number of places themselves.

“The data is clear: meaningful time spent training in general practice and in rural and regional settings makes a real difference to where our future doctors choose to work,” Ms Hobson-Powell said. “These students have consistently indicated a preference to go on and practise in the areas where they are most needed.”

About Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc. is the peak body representing entry-level medical education, training and research across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Its members are the medical schools of Australia and New Zealand, which plan for, develop and support the medical workforce our communities need.

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