MEDIA RELEASE

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National Medical Training Advisory Network meets with Minister to discuss Australia’s health workforce challenge

Federal Assistant Health Minister, Dr David Gillespie, will today meet in Melbourne with members of the National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) to progress crucial work on medical education and training in Australia.

“This is about the future of the medical workforce in Australia, and I am determined to get it right,” Minister Gillespie said.

“The Australia’s Future Health Workforce Report - Doctors indicates Australia faces an oversupply of 7,000 doctors in Australia by 2030. Clearly the major challenge now is to ensure the distribution of our medical workforce so that all Australians have access to the services they need.

“The National Medical Training Advisory Network is one of our key partners in delivering the best medical training system we possibly can for Australia.”

Today’s meeting in Melbourne is an important part of the medical school and medical school places assessment process which began in December 2016.

“I am particularly keen to hear feedback in relation to what some of the key stakeholders in the medical profession and workforce think about how we utilise the education and training pathways to attract and retain doctors to the regions.

“Currently our Government is investing significant funds in regional and rural medical training programs and incentives. But we need to do more. A key part of this work is our consultation and discussion with NMTAN.

“I am keen to work together with all relevant stakeholders to make the system strong, and fit-for-purpose.

The assessment of medical training places and distribution will be considered within the context of existing workforce modelling and data, two decades of workforce distribution policies, the expansion of higher education places and the Coalition Government’s priorities to address the maldistribution of medical professionals across regional, rural and remote Australia.

“Having a good distribution of training for medical students is an essential step but once medical students graduate from university, they still have years of training ahead of them. We need to ensure that rural training can continue beyond university.
“At key points in their training and development, the structure of the training system and a lack of advanced regional, rural and remote positions tend to force new doctors back to the cities, where they often settle,” Minister Gillespie said.

“We must ensure access to high quality postgraduate training for the existing numbers of medical students and recent graduates in regional, rural and remote Australia.”

For more information contact the Minister's Office on 0435 686 313