



National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021–2031

Investing in our medical workforce to meet Australia's health needs

Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee

Communique – 19 October 2022

Members of the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met face-to-face and via videoconference in Canberra on Wednesday 19 October 2022.

MWRAC members discussed some of the essential and pressing issues affecting the medical workforce currently and linkages with the National Medical Workforce Strategy. This included the need to address undersupply of the General Practitioner (GP) workforce in regional, rural and remote areas across Australia, progressing the National Medical Workforce Strategy's cross-cutting theme and actions to improve doctor wellbeing, and the importance of accurate and up to date data.

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) presented on domestic medical graduates in relation to general practice, rural generalist medicine and consultant medical practice. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), Rural Surgery Section then discussed the work being done by the college against the RACS Rural Health Equity Strategic Action Plan.

Members received an update from the Department of Health and Aged Care on the work being done on the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS) data strategy, including broader health workforce modelling. The Department reinforced the need for consistent methods of modelling to feed into a single integrated source of health workforce data (HeaDS UPP Scenario Planner), and the work being carried out to increase sophistication of the GP supply and demand modelling.

Co-chair Ms Penny Shakespeare, Department of Health and Aged Care, emphasised the Commonwealth Government's commitment to General Practice (GP) training. She highlighted the expansion of the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Training Program and the funding provided for single employer model trials, and innovative models of care in rural and remote regions.

The next MWRAC meeting will be held in Melbourne on 8 December 2022.