



National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021–2031

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

Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee

Communique – 8 December 2022

Members of the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met on Thursday 8 December 2022 at a hybrid face-to-face / virtual meeting in Melbourne.

The Department of Health and Aged Care announced the release of the update to medical data for 2021. The data sets can be found at <https://hwd.health.gov.au/datatool>.

Members were given an update on the early development of the Service Registrar framework. Members acknowledged the need for structural changes for the service registrar cohort as the number of service registrars continues to rise.

The growing focus in doctor and health workforce wellbeing across the sector was highlighted and as well as the challenge to make meaningful change in the implementation of actions.

There was a strong emphasis on general practice, junior doctors and medical students. Ms Jasmine Davis from the Australian Medical Students Association presented on their recent General Practice Roundtable, and subsequent roundtable report “Medical Student Interest in General Practice - Reversing the Trend”. The Department, in conjunction with the Health Design Lab, presented on a research project “Attracting junior doctors to general practice”. Early work on this project has commenced, with the project concluding in the first half of 2023.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) gave an overview of Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) projects in Northern Territory and Far North Queensland. The aim of the FATES projects is to increase the quantity, quality and sustainability of specialist training in rural, remote and First Nations health settings. Dr Haley Bennett, CEO, highlighted the positive impact these programs have had on the community and the transformative effect it has had on training facilities.

The MWRAC meeting concluded with a presentation outlining some of the achievements of MWRAC and its predecessor The National Medical Training and Advisory Network (NMTAN).

The next MWRAC meeting will be held in Canberra on 16 March 2023.