



National Medical Workforce Strategy

2021–2031

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

MEDICAL WORKFORCE ADVISORY COLLABORATION

Communiqué – 6 August 2024

The Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC) has been established to advise Health Ministers through the Health Workforce Taskforce on medical workforce priorities and implementation of the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS). It met on 6 August 2024 in Canberra.

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, addressed the meeting on medical workforce priorities. Minister Butler outlined that MWAC's advice will guide implementation of the National Medical Workforce Strategy and responses to complex health system challenges.

The meeting discussed health workforce data sharing and modelling, and recent GP supply and demand data modelling. Members undertook to work together to provide more data and improve future modelling and data use, particularly as this moves on to specialties with significant proportions of service delivery not represented in Medicare Benefits Schedule data.

The Health Workforce Taskforce provided information about the Junior Medical Officer recruitment project and implementation of a National e-Portfolio for Prevocational Medical Training. The Taskforce also provided an update on implementation of the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman recommendations on accreditation of specialist medical training sites and recommendations from the Kruk Review.

Members discussed proposed actions for the draft MWAC Action Plan and its priorities including:

- Improving data and governance
- Reforming the medical workforce pipeline
- Increasing the generalist and GP medical workforce
- Increasing the First Nations medical workforce and improving cultural safety
- Informing streamlined and optimal health workforce system reform.



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Members agreed that immediate priorities for the action plan should include building Australia's medical workforce supervisory capacity and increasing the generalist workforce.

Supervision and supervisory capacity is a complex issue and barrier to addressing medical workforce supply and distribution. A coordinated approach is required to identify and test solutions.

The discussions from this meeting will inform development of the Action Plan for MWAC and the Taskforce to consider and endorse. The next meeting is proposed for 22 November 2024 in Melbourne. For further information and enquiries please contact the Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration: MWAC@health.gov.au.

