



# First Nations General Practice Training Committee

## Communiqué – 11 November 2024

The First Nations General Practice Training Committee (the Committee) met in Canberra on 11 November 2024. Dr Dawn Casey chaired the meeting.

The Committee discussed its upcoming consultation processes with First Nations health facilities. Committee members considered preliminary survey questions and the merits of expanding the scope of the consultation beyond Salary Support. It was agreed that one survey instead of two on a range of issues would minimise survey fatigue for facilities. The department will work with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Joint Colleges Training Services (JCTS) to refine the survey questions.

The Committee discussed aspects of GP training aligned with the committee's aims. The following experts were invited to present on their latest results, priorities and/or research:

Australian Council for Educational Research on the results of the 2024 General Practice National Registrar Survey. The survey collects information about registrar satisfaction, experience and future career plans. It also collects information of a registrar's participation in First Nations Health settings; cultural safety and cultural mentoring and cultural awareness training registrars receive and satisfaction of supports for First Nations registrars.

- Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) on its Indigenous Health Strategy and First Nations focused initiatives. MDANZ also discussed its priorities to grow the general practice workforce.
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners on its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Training Framework. The framework was developed in partnership with JCTS, and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.
  - The framework commits to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values, ways of thinking and approaches into general practice learning and training.
  - Registrars, supervisors, medical educators, cultural educators and cultural mentors, at both GP colleges are to engage with the framework throughout training.
- Associate Professor Jillian Benson presented on her co-authored research:
  - examining factors motivating [Australian General Practice Training Program graduates to remain in, or leave, Aboriginal Medical Services](#);
  - [medical students in remote Aboriginal communities](#), and
  - [professional diversification and wellbeing of general practitioners](#).
- The department outlined its health workforce priorities including those in First Nations health.

The presentations prompted further discussion, and the Committee identified a number of key policy areas that they agreed to add to the 2025 Workplan:

- peer support(s)

- communities of practice
- critical pressure points in the general practice pipeline, and
- visibility of targets in the training and education of general practitioners including First Nations doctors and placements in First Nations health settings.

The Committee is due to meet again in February 2025.

For more information see: [First Nations General Practice Training Committee](#).