



Australian Government

Department of Health

National Medical Workforce Strategy

2021–2031

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



MEDICAL WORKFORCE ADVISORY COLLABORATION

Communique – 22 November 2024

The second meeting of the Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC) was held on 22 November 2024 in Melbourne and co-chaired by Associate Professor Mathew Coleman and Penny Shakespeare. Co-Chair Penny Shakespeare outlined the progress of MWAC's work since the 6 August 2024 meeting including the establishment of time limited working groups for Clinical Supervision and Generalism in line with the priorities identified by MWAC. Ms Natalie Bekis (Department of Health and Aged Care) updated the committee on the National Medical Workforce Strategy Evaluation project and invited members to contribute to the project.

MWAC Deputy Co-Chair and Co-Chair of the Clinical Supervision Working Group Professor Ruth Kearon discussed the establishment of the Clinical Supervision Working Group. This working group met for the first time on 28 October 2024 and aims to increase capacity for high quality supervision across the health system. The committee then identified strategies to improve supervision capacity and capability to inform the Clinical Supervision Working Group's further work.

The Health Workforce Taskforce presented to the committee on priority activities including: Clinical Learning Australia- The e-Portfolio for prevocational doctors; medical intern recruitment for 2025; the Junior Medical Officer Recruitment Project; implementation of the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman recommendations; the Communication Protocol evaluation and the progression of actions arising from recommendations of the Independent Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings (Kruk Review).

The Department of Health and Aged care presented on whole of medical workforce data modelling. Members discussed ways to address supply imbalances and opportunities and challenges in aligning medical workforce supply with demand.

Co-chair Associate Professor Mathew Coleman provided an update on the newly established Generalism Working Group which met for the first time on 21 October 2024. This Working Group will provide strategic advice to MWAC





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and key stakeholders on building the generalist capability of the medical workforce. The committee discussed the narrowing of medical workforce skillsets that results from specialisation/subspecialisation and acknowledged the need to expand generalism across all areas of medicine, particularly in non-GP specialist fields. The Committee identified strategies and priorities to increase generalism for consideration by the Generalism Working Group in their future workplan.

MWAC Co-Chair Mathew Coleman encouraged members to share the direction and initiatives MWAC is taking with their organisations and relevant stakeholders. MWAC members including medical colleges were urged to consider what actions they can initiate with their organisations to progress the priorities of the National Medical Workforce Strategy and report back at future meetings.

The next meeting is proposed for 7 February 2024 in Canberra. For further information and enquiries please contact: MWAC@health.gov.au.

