



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

National Medical Workforce Strategy

2021–2031



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

MEDICAL WORKFORCE ADVISORY COLLABORATION

Communique – 11 September 2025

The Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC) met on 11 September 2025 in Melbourne. Associate Professor Mathew Coleman and Ms Penny Shakespeare co-chaired the meeting. All specialist medical colleges and the National Rural Health Commissioner were invited to attend.

The Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) updated members on the implementation of *Rural Selection: A Guide for Medical Colleges*, developed with the National Rural Health Commissioner. Members discussed CPMC's support for colleges in enhancing and aligning rural selection and noted the importance of rural training and long-term workforce support for rural specialists.

The Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing presented on whole of medical workforce supply and demand modelling to inform MWAC's ongoing work. The presentation outlined trends in medical school enrolments workforce headcount, full time employment growth, and geographic distribution of practitioners. A report on this data will be published in the near future.

The Health Workforce Taskforce provided an update on the '*Opportunities for Coordination and Streamlining Junior Medical Officer Recruitment*' project. Members engaged in a workshop to explore the role of colleges and employers in specialist training selection and how selection can support effective workforce distribution. Feedback from the workshop will inform further work on this project by the Health Workforce Taskforce.

Associate Professor Susan Wearne (Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) updated members on the progress of the Clinical Supervision Working Group. The following focus areas for the working group were discussed, which included:

- Clinical supervision as a fundamental and integrated part of a doctor's professional role.
- Reducing fragmentation of clinical supervision systems that build on previous learning and experience to avoid duplication of supervisor training and resources across medical education.
- Alternative models of supervision should be developed to increase supervisory capacity and flexibility.





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Members noted the update on work progressed by the MWAC Clinical Supervision Working Group and endorsed continued work to increase the capacity for high quality clinical supervision.

Co-Chair Associate Professor Mathew Coleman provided an update on the Generalism Working Group (GWG) exploring ways to increase generalism across the medical workforce. Members discussed and **endorsed** the GWG's draft paper on increasing generalism during medical school and prevocational training, which will progress to the Health Workforce Taskforce in future as part of a package of the GWG's work.

Ms Natalie Bekis (Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care) with KPMG updated the committee on the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS) Evaluation Foundations Project. This work is expected to be finalised in the first half of 2026.

For further information and enquiries please contact: MWAC@health.gov.au.

