



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 – 21 November 2025

The Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration (MWAC) met on 21 November 2025 in Melbourne.

Ms Penny Shakespeare and interim independent co-chair Professor Ruth Kearon co-chaired the meeting.

The Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association co-presented on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical workforce data. The presentation outlined growth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and medical practitioners, medical school enrolments, workforce headcount, full time employment and geographic distribution of practitioners. The Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils (CPMEC) presented to members on the workforce issues affecting prevocational doctors in Australia. The presentation focused on the increase in the prevocational medical workforce cohort, and the findings of the Medical Training Survey data. Members engaged in a workshop to discuss actions to improve national intern training, career support, and workforce planning for the growing prevocational cohort.

Associate Professor Susan Wearne (Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing) presented to members on ways to increase support and retention of hospital registrars and career medical officers. The presentation included key issues surrounding the working conditions and career progression of hospital registrars and career medical officers. A workshop session was held to discuss generalist hospital careers, the need to encourage and increase flexible training pathways, including pathways into primary care; improved long-term career planning and transparency including on training numbers and completion rates; and improving culture to support workforce sustainability and doctor wellbeing. Members were also asked to consider what actions they could take to improve outcomes for this cohort and ultimately address workforce issues.

The Health Workforce Taskforce provided an update to the committee on activities including Clinical Learning Australia, the e-Portfolio for prevocational doctors; the Opportunities for streamlining selection into training project; National Registration and Accreditation Scheme Complexity Review and Model Accreditation Standards and Procedures.

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

