



Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC)

Communiqué – 1 December 2021

The Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met via videoconference on Wednesday, 1 December 2021.

MWRAC Co-chair, Ms Shakespeare provided an update on progression of the National Medical Workforce Strategy (the Strategy), through the Health Ministers for final endorsement. The Strategy will be published on the Department of Health's website following endorsement.

Members gave their in-principle support to the establishment of working groups to assist in planning initial implementation of the Strategy, following Health Ministers' endorsement.

Dr Kym Jenkins from the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) and Professor Robyn Langham from the Australian Medical Council (AMC) gave presentations on a joint project investigating the impacts of COVID-19 on medical education and training and discussed innovations introduced during the pandemic that might be continued.

Dr Jenkins outlined key themes from CPMC's review of the medical training system, including trainee wellbeing, exam timing, format and delivery and workplace culture. CPMC's final project report provided policy recommendations across areas such as education, assessment, medical workforce, wellbeing and risk-planning. CPMC's project reports can be found on their website: <https://cpmc.edu.au/special-projects/medical-training-system-review-project/>

Prof Langham presented on AMC's part of the project which evaluated existing barriers and enablers to training and the impact of COVID-19. AMC examined issues for assessment and identified next steps and opportunities for improvement, including enhancing stakeholder engagement and information sharing.

Mr Martin Rocks, Department of Health, presented on work undertaken by the Department examining how accreditation practices impact on building a non-GP rural specialist medical workforce. The Department consulted with over sixty stakeholders to develop recommendations to inform future policy and program work in relation to non-GP specialist medical training.

Ms Maureen McCarty presented on work by the Department of Health towards a longer-term data strategy, including development of a workforce demand model, initial work on needs-based modelling, and a forecasting tool being built to incorporate these models.

In closing the meeting, Prof May raised with members the expectation of the working groups being established, and the next MWRAC meeting being held in mid-late March 2022.