



Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC)

Communiqué – 13 August 2021

The Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met via videoconference on Friday 13 August 2021. MWRAC has continued to guide the development of the National Medical Workforce Strategy (the Strategy).

MWRAC Co-chairs, Professor Jennifer May and Ms Penny Shakespeare, thanked the MWRAC and the National Medical Workforce Strategy Steering Committee for their contributions to and feedback on the draft Strategy throughout its development, and outlined the next steps for endorsement of the Strategy.

Members were asked to endorse the Strategy as a blueprint for reform. Each member of the Committee provided a statement in relation to endorsement of the Strategy on behalf of their organisation. A few members advised they would need to finalise endorsement with their boards. Collectively, the Committee gave their in-principle endorsement of the Strategy.

Members stressed the importance of the implementation phase of the Strategy, and that the sequencing of the implementation activities would be crucial for its success. Considerations and suggestions for the implementation phase were raised. All members expressed interest in being involved in the implementation of the Strategy and agreed that continued collaboration and planning would ensure a well-informed approach.

During the discussion on Strategy endorsement, members mentioned their key considerations for the Strategy and implementation including: the role of international medical graduates (IMGs) and the associated training pathways and supporting data; learning from the experiences and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including in relation to the changing needs of the community; and the potential for research to inform areas of Strategy implementation.

The Committee agreed to the Strategy progressing to Government and Health Ministers for endorsement in the coming months.

There was also agreement to schedule the next committee meeting as soon as possible to discuss potential sequencing of implementation activities, taking into account priorities already raised by members.