

RESOLVED POLICY AMSA FEBRUARY COUNCIL 2007

DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE FULL-FEE PAYING MEDICAL PLACES

1. AMSA believes that:
 - 1.1. Every Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying medical student in Australia is a member of the organisation and has its full support.
 - 1.2. Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying medical students are no different from Commonwealth Supported students in their potential to become skilled and competent practitioners.
 - 1.3. Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying students deserve the same opportunity to undertake an internship as Commonwealth Supported students.
 - 1.4. Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying students deserve more financial support than they are currently receiving and, as such:
 - 1.4.1. The costs of medical degrees should be reduced wherever possible.
 - 1.4.2. The 20% fee-loading on the Commonwealth Fee-HELP scheme should be removed.

2. AMSA believes that:
 - 2.1 There should be equity of access to all Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying medical places and that:
 - 2.1.1 Domestic Undergraduate Full-fee places are exorbitantly expensive
 - 2.1.2 Not all prospective medical students have the financial capacity to access Domestic Undergraduate Full-fee places.
 - 2.1.3 The cost of a Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying medical degree can be a significant burden for the full-fee paying student and their family.
 - 2.2 The health care of all Australians should be considered important enough to warrant Government financial subsidy for all domestic medical places
 - 2.3 Money received from Domestic Undergraduate Full-fee paying students in medicine should not disproportionately contribute to general university revenue.
 - 2.4 Financial stress may have negative physical and mental health effects on Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee students.
 - 2.5. Debt incurred through completing a Domestic Undergraduate Full-Fee paying degree may influence choice of specialty and work location in a way that may not address current workforce shortages.
 - 2.6. Ideally, all domestic medical places would be Commonwealth Supported.
 - 2.7. Given the ongoing existence of Domestic Undergraduate Full-fee places, every attempt should be made to make these places more affordable.