

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Victorian Minister for Health
Level 22
50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne
VIC 3000

6 July 2008

Dear Minister,

Re: Intern training capacity in Victoria

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Medical Students' Association, the Medical Students' Council of Victoria, the University of Melbourne Medical Students' Society, the Monash University Medical Undergraduate Society and the Medical Students' Society of Deakin University to discuss Victoria's capacity to provide intern training positions for medical graduates in the future.

As you may be aware the number of doctors graduating from Victorian Universities each year is due to increase by 62 percent, from 461 to 748 between 2007 and 2012. Each state in Australia faces similar increases with the total number of medical graduates each year predicted to increase from 1913 in 2007 to 3375 by 2012¹.

The increasing number of medical students and medical graduates will place considerable demand on Victoria's existing hospital based clinical training resources. Without adequate planning the quality of Victoria's medical student and junior doctor training will be compromised, to the point where Victoria may no longer be able to offer intern positions to all of the medical students graduating locally each year.

Given the significant investment of local resources into each Victorian medical student during their training, we feel that such a situation would be to the detriment of the Victorian Health Service and would be inconsistent with community expectations.

In light of these concerns we are hoping you would be able to address the following questions:

How is the Victorian Government planning to accommodate the increasing number of medical students and junior doctors?

Will the Victorian Government guarantee intern positions for commonwealth supported, bonded and domestic full-fee paying graduates from Victorian Universities until 2013? If yes, will these places be guaranteed in subsequent years?

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Will the Victorian Government guarantee intern positions for international student graduates from Victorian Universities until 2013? If yes, will these places be guaranteed in subsequent years?

What capacity will Victoria have to offer intern positions to interstate medical graduates?

We look forward to hearing from you in regards to these matters.

We would be happy to further discuss strategies to increase capacity and ensure ongoing quality of clinical training in Victorian hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Bonning
President
Australian Medical Students' Association

Christine Mandrawa
Chair
Medical Students' Council of Victoria

Jonathan Galtieri
President
Melbourne Medical Students' Society

Claire Wise
President
Monash University Medical Undergraduate Society

Caroline Bate
President
Medical Students' Society of Deakin University

¹ Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand. Submission to the Medical Training Review Panel Clinical Training Sub Committee. 2007.