

**RESOLVED POLICY AMSA FEBRUARY COUNCIL 2007**

**INCREASING MEDICAL STUDENT NUMBERS**

1. AMSA believes that:
  - 1.1. Increases in medical student numbers are, to an extent, required to address medical workforce shortages and an ageing Australian population.
  - 1.2. Increases in medical student numbers should occur incrementally, to ensure that the medical workforce is sufficient in number to allow appropriate student access to clinical teachers.
  - 1.3. Any increase in the number of medical students studying in Australia should only occur with extensive prior evaluation and planning of educational and clinical resources, to ensure the quality of medical education is maintained.
  - 1.4. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in medical education, including but not limited to Australian medical schools, the AMC and state and federal governments, to demonstrate that a sufficient number of appropriate clinical places are available to students
  - 1.5. Despite increases in medical student numbers, all students of Australian medical schools must have sufficient exposure to an extensive range of medical specialties and clinical settings including, but not limited to, public and, where appropriate, private hospitals; rural clinics; community health care facilities; and general practice.
  - 1.6. In the face of increasing student numbers, clinical simulators may be useful in the delivery of medical education but that patient contact and tutelage from clinicians must remain the cornerstone of medical education.
  - 1.7. Students should be involved in the consultative and decision-making process towards the accommodation of increased student numbers
  - 1.8. Consistent with Section 8 of AMSA Policies (Revision 2001), in the setting of a workforce shortage, the number of available medical internships should be commensurate with the projected number of medical graduates; otherwise the imperative for increasing student numbers is not met.
  - 1.9. Solutions, that maintain the quality of education, must be sought to alleviate the potential bottleneck for entry into vocational training, before the increased numbers of students reach this point in their careers.