

Ms Katy Gallagher MLA  
The Australian Capital Territory Minister for Health  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
Canberra  
ACT 2601

6 July 2008

Dear Minister,

**Re: Intern training capacity in the Australian Capital Territory**

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Medical Students' Association, the Australian National University Medical Students' Society to discuss the Australian Capital Territory's capacity to provide intern training positions for medical graduates in the future.

As you may be aware the number of doctors graduating from The Australian National University each year is due to increase by 22 percent, from 77 to 94 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 2012<sup>1</sup>.

The increasing number of medical students and medical graduates will place considerable demand on the Australian Capital Territory's existing hospital based clinical training resources. Without adequate planning the quality of the Australian Capital Territory's medical student and junior doctor training will be compromised, to the point where the Australian Capital Territory 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 ACT medical student during their training, we feel that such a situation would be to the detriment of the ACT Health Service and would be inconsistent with community expectations.

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

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

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

*Will the ACT Government guarantee intern positions for international student graduates from The Australian National University until 2013? If yes, will these places be guaranteed in subsequent years?*

*What capacity will the Australian Capital Territory 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 ACT hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Bonning  
President  
Australian Medical Students' Association

Steven Peterson  
President  
ANU Medical Students' Society

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