



Mr M Bonning  
President  
Australian Medical Students' Association  
PO Box 6099  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Bonning

I refer to your letter co-signed by representatives of several medical societies, requesting clarity concerning the NSW Government's proposed strategies to accommodate the anticipated increase in medical students and junior doctors and offering to assist in their development.

Accommodating the projected increase in graduates will require careful planning and NSW Health is actively working on this process.

The Director-General of NSW Health has asked the Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET) to develop a comprehensive plan to manage the increasing number of medical graduates that will be entering our public health system over the next few years. IMET has established a Steering Committee that includes three Area Health Service Chief Executives to develop strategies to ensure that our new medical graduates have suitable places that meet their supervision and training requirements.

The Council of Australian Governments' communiqué of July 2006 extends a guarantee of an intern placement to Commonwealth supported students (including bonded graduates). NSW will aim to provide internships for all eligible applicants. This was achieved for the January 2008 intake where there were 19% more new doctors than the 2007 January intake. It is anticipated that the 2009 graduates will be placed successfully.

In line with NSW Medical Board requirements there are no plans to alter core terms of internship, including general medicine, surgery and emergency medicine.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Karen Crawshaw  
Deputy Director-General, Health System Support

10.9.08