

The Hon Reba Meagher MP  
New South Wales Minister for Health  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney  
NSW 2000

6 July 2008

Dear Minister,

**Re: Intern training capacity in New South Wales**

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Medical Students' Association, the New South Wales Medical Students' Council, the University of New South Wales Medical Society, the University of Sydney Medical Society, the University of Newcastle Medical Society, the University of Western Sydney Medical Society, the Wollongong University Medical Students' Society and the to discuss New South Wales's capacity to provide intern training positions for medical graduates in the future.

As you may be aware the number of doctors graduating from New South Wales Universities each year is due to increase by 94 percent, from 538 to 1042 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 New South Wales's existing hospital based clinical training resources. Without adequate planning the quality of New South Wales's medical student and junior doctor training will be compromised, to the point where New South Wales 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 New South Wales medical student during their training, we feel that such a situation would be to the detriment of the New South Wales 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 New South Wales Government planning to accommodate the increasing number of medical students and junior doctors?*

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

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

*What capacity will New South Wales 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 New South Wales hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Bonning  
President  
Australian Medical Students' Association

Cameron Korb-Wells  
President  
University of NSW Medical Society

Paula Conroy  
President  
University of Sydney Medical Society

Andrew Williams  
President  
University of Newcastle Medical Society

Gokul Tamilarasan  
President  
University of Western Sydney Medical Society

Nathan Essey  
President  
Notre Dame Sydney Medical Society

Helen Freeborn  
President  
Wollongong University 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.

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