

The Hon John Hill MP
South Australian Minister for Health
GPO Box 2555
Adelaide
SA 5001

6 July 2008

Dear Minister,

Re: Intern training capacity in South Australia

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Medical Students' Association, the Adelaide Medical Students' Society and the Flinders Medical Students' Society to discuss South Australia's capacity to provide intern training positions for medical graduates in the future.

As you may be aware the number of doctors graduating from South Australian Universities each year is due to increase by 26 percent, from 234 to 296 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 South Australia's existing hospital based clinical training resources. Without adequate planning the quality of South Australia's medical student and junior doctor training will be compromised, to the point where South Australia 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 South Australian medical student during their training, we feel that such a situation would be to the detriment of the South Australian 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 South Australian Government planning to accommodate the increasing number of medical students and junior doctors?

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

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

What capacity will South Australia 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 South Australian hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Bonning
President
Australian Medical Students' Association

Chris Wong
President
Adelaide Medical Students' Society

Norman Madsen
President
Flinders Medical Students' Society

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