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Dear Tim

Congratulations on the launch of the AMSA Intern Training Capacity Campaign. We hope your work will put internship numbers and capacity on the national agenda.

MSCV has representation on the Postgraduate Medical Reference Group (PMRG) that acts as an advisory body to Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS). I write in response to questions raised in the AMSA Intern Training Capacity Campaign and update AMSA on recently developments in Victoria with regards to internship places.

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

In 2007, DHS in consultation with the Victorian universities, mapped out a potential plan for future clinical placements at current training institutions, where numbers may be increased and where students could be placed. DHS is currently considering a Clinical Placement Agency to coordinate clinical placements and maximize clinical training capacity in Victoria.

A Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment Project has been commissioned by DHS and is currently underway to examine what factors contribute to a clinical learning environment and markers that can be used to determine quality clinical training. Funding for clinical infrastructure has also been granted in the recent state budget although MSCV is unclear about what funding is specifically dedicated to medical students.

Funding has been granted for 231 new intern places. These will be increased in a stepwise manner with 45 new places each year from 2009 to 2011 and 96 new places in 2012. This will bring the total number of places in 2012 to 690 which will be commensurate with the number of Victorian domestic medical graduates graduating in 2011.

Hospital Medical Officer funding has been increase with 151 extra funded places in total by 2012. However, currently more than half of the Victoria HMO positions are not state funded. It has not been decided if this funding will be used to increase HMO

positions or fund positions that are currently not state funded.

More funding has been allocated for Medical Education Officers to coordinate intern and HMO teaching at the various institutions.

Will the Victorian Government guarantee intern positions for commonwealth supported, bonded and domestic full-fee paying graduates from Victorian Universities until 2013 (ie. when we have data till)? If yes, will these places be guaranteed in subsequent years?

The current data predicts that there will be 690 domestic graduates requiring internship places in 2012. The increase in internship places is commensurate with this and is guaranteed into 2013 and beyond.

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

Intern positions for international student graduates are currently not guaranteed and have not been guaranteed in the future. International student graduates have the opportunity to apply for internship positions in Victoria but are placed at a lower priority in comparison to domestic graduates.

What capacity will Victoria have to offer intern positions to interstate medical graduates?

As the system is currently set up, interstate medical graduates are welcome to apply to individual hospitals for internships and then register for the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) intern computer matching system. Interstate candidates can gain internship places through this system – which is the same as Victorian medical graduates. We do not think this will change in the future.

As the increase in medical graduates rises dramatically in 2012 but the new intern places are increased in a stepwise manner over 4 years, Victoria will be deficient in medical graduates in comparison to internship places in 2010 and 2011. There will an increased opportunity for interstate graduates to gain intern positions in Victoria during this time.

PMCV reports that all internship positions for 2009 have been filled.

Will Victoria continue to offer the core intern rotations of internal medicine, general surgery and emergency medicine?

As it currently stands, the core rotations of 10 weeks general medicine, 10 weeks general surgery and 8 weeks in emergency medicine will remain. This is in accordance with requirements by the Victoria Medical Board and thus a requirement for accreditation of an internship place by the PMCV.

Thank you for your interest in Victoria's increasing medical student numbers and its issues regarding internship places. MSCV hopes to continue its work with AMSA to



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ensure that all medical students have access to quality clinical training as well as employment after graduation. We will continue to represent students on PMRG to ensure that intern places are realistically and practically increased without compromise on the quality of placements, supervision of our graduates and the safety of our patients. We will keep AMSA informed of new developments.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me should you have any further questions or require clarification about internship positions. If there anything further that MSCV can assist with, please contact me on 0421 462 165 or via mscv@mscv.ummss.org.au.

Regards

Christine Mandrawa
Chair
Medical Student Council of Victoria

CC Dean Raven, Department of Human Services Victoria