

The Hon Jim McGinty MLA
Western Australia Minister for Health
4th Floor, London House
216 St Georges Terrace
Perth
WA 6000

6 July 2008

Dear Minister,

Re: Intern training capacity in Western Australia

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Medical Students' Association, the Western Australian Medical Students' Society and the Medical Students' Association of Notre Dame Fremantle to discuss Western 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 Western Australian Universities each year is due to increase by 125 percent, from 134 to 302 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 Western Australia's existing hospital based clinical training resources. Without adequate planning the quality of Western Australia's medical student and junior doctor training will be compromised, to the point where Western 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 Western Australian medical student during their training, we feel that such a situation would be to the detriment of the Western 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:

National Office
42 Macquarie St
Barton ACT 2600
P.O. Box 6099
Kingston ACT 2604

phone +612 6270 5435
fax +612 6270 5499
email mail@amsa.org.au
web www.amsa.org.au
Australian Medical Students'
Association Limited
ABN 67 079 544 513

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

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

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

What capacity will Western 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 Western Australian hospitals.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Bonning
President

Australian Medical Students' Association

Austen Shenn
President

Western Australian Medical Students' Society

Kia Alizadeh
President
Medical Students' Association of Notre Dame Fremantle

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

National Office
42 Macquarie St
Barton ACT 2600
P.O. Box 6099
Kingston ACT 2604

phone +612 6270 5435
fax +612 6270 5499
email mail@amsa.org.au
web www.amsa.org.au
Australian Medical Students'
Association Limited
ABN 67 079 544 513