

# National Medical Training Advisory Network

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## Communiqué 22 March 2019

The National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) met on 22 March 2019 in Melbourne.

The Commonwealth Department of Health (DoH) informed members that the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS) project has been launched. The NMWS has received broad support from the Health Services Principal Committee (HSPC), the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC) and the Council of Australian Governments Health Council (CHC).

DoH provided an update on the interaction between several measures in the *Stronger Rural Health Strategy* which interact to support current non-vocationally recognised doctors to obtain fellowship to ensure we have a quality and well distributed workforce.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) provided a presentation that gave a valuable overview of the legislative basis for investigating anticompetitive behaviour and that highlighted the importance of clearly defining circumstances where it may be in the public interest to restrict competition. NMTAN considered how the public benefit test might apply to the specialist training programs and the benefits that could be achieved by linking individual program decisions to a broader strategy – the NMWS.

DoH provided an update on the District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) reforms. Details of the revised methodology will be made public once approved.

DoH presented new methodology for counting Specialist General Practitioners and other medical practitioners providing primary health care services and for calculating General Practitioner Full-Time Equivalent (GPFTE) for the Health Demand and Supply Utilisation Patterns Planning (HeADS UPP) Tool. DoH also presented the beta version of the HeADS UPP Tool.

Members confirmed that NMTAN will be renamed the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) to reflect the committee's broadening role.

The next meeting of the MWRAC will be held on 7 June 2019.