

# National Medical Training Advisory Network

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## Executive Committee Meeting Communique Friday 25 August 2017

The National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) Executive Committee met on 25 August 2017 in Melbourne.

Members were invited to comment on the development of the Commonwealth health workforce strategy. Members discussed the key issues that will be addressed in the strategy, including financial incentives to encourage better distribution of the health workforce and improved training programs and pathways.

Representatives from the Commonwealth Department of Health presented members with an overview of a project on the geographic distribution of the medical workforce. The tool being developed uses information from a number of data sets to provide information about the supply, demand and geographical distribution of Australia's health workforce. The demonstration to NMTAN members was for the current project phase, which focuses on general practice.

Members discussed ways to improve the Commonwealth programs that bond medical students to a return of service period in an area of workforce need – the Bonded Medical Places Scheme and the Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships Scheme. Members discussed the need for bonded doctors to be supported during their training and during their return of service participation. The Commonwealth Department of Health will consider ways to improve bonded programs.

Members provided input into the Medical Board's development of a National Training Survey.

Members received updates from the working groups established to respond to the *Australia's Future Health Workforce* reports for Dermatology and Emergency Medicine, and were presented with the findings of the modelling of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology workforce.

The next meeting of NMTAN will be held on 8 December 2017.