



# The Australian Medical Council

## Using the 2019 Medical Survey results

The Australian Medical Council is committed to integrating the perspectives of medical students, interns and doctors in training into its accreditation activities, including setting accreditation standards, accrediting medical programs and monitoring accredited programs. Students, interns and trainees sit on all of the AMC's accreditation committees and on its governing council. The AMC interviews students, interns and trainees during accreditation assessments, and surveys trainees and supervisors when it assesses College training programs.

Consistent with this commitment, the AMC has been a strong advocate of the Medical Training Survey and has partnered with the Medical Board and Ahpra to establish the survey. As the accreditation authority for medicine, the AMC develops standards for medical education and training in all phases of medical education and assesses education providers and their programs against these. The AMC uses information from a range of sources in its assessments of education providers and their programs against the accreditation standards. This survey has real potential to strengthen the voice of interns and trainees in identifying areas that need development and areas of great support and training to learn from.

For the last three years, the AMC has worked with the Medical Board to survey interns on their perceptions of how their medical school prepared them for internship. As an annual survey it has been designed to support continuous improvement in medical school programs and facilitate collaboration across medical schools, internship providers and postgraduate medical councils to support local graduates' transition to internship. The AMC has learnt from this survey that, across Australia, graduates generally do feel prepared for their internship (in 2019, 74% agreed or strongly agreed, 16% were neutral and 11% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they were prepared to take on the role and responsibilities of an intern). However, there were particular areas of practice where many interns reported feeling less prepared, such as prescribing. These results are helping to inform collaborative work across medical schools on prescribing skills teaching and assessment.

The AMC has also gained rich insights into areas of curricula at individual medical schools that supported transition to practice, that did not work so well, or where there were gaps. Medical schools have been using the deidentified results of the surveys to improve their curricula and the annual nature of the survey provides timely feedback on how these initiatives have been received.

The AMC has sought information from medical schools regarding how they have incorporated the survey results into their routine accreditation monitoring activities and, consequently the AMC has seen some excellent examples of medical schools and internship providers using the surveys to collaborate on final year preparedness for practice/transitions programs. The AMC has also seen examples of medical schools

discussing the results with student bodies as partners in the continuous improvement of the medical program.

Now, about to launch for the second year, the AMC considers that the Medical Training Survey has the same potential to bring interns and trainees together with education providers and health services to review training against the AMC's accreditation standards, which were developed collaboratively as a shared expression of good practice in medical training and education. The published survey results enable all education providers and health services to consider the experience of their trainees in the context of reported experiences across Australia. Colleges and Postgraduate Medical Councils are able to review data, individually, or collectively and identify work on areas for development and to share practice. Interns and trainees will be able to use the results of the survey to discuss the quality of training with their internship providers and colleges, across their programs. Over time, the published survey results will augment existing training data to provide a firm foundation to work together to secure high quality education in supportive training environments.

As with the AMC and Board survey on interns' perceptions of their preparedness, as part of the AMC's monitoring process, all Colleges have been asked to reflect on the first year's Medical Training Survey results and consider how, over time, the results can be used in evaluation and quality improvement of training programs.

The AMC will be adding the Medical Training Survey results as an important source of evidence in accreditation assessments of Colleges and their programs. Currently the AMC surveys trainees in advance of its accreditation assessment of a College's programs, and interviews trainees across Australia and New Zealand to ensure the AMC hears the views of trainees in a range of locations about their training experience. The information gained from these surveys is rich but it provides a snap shot only at the time of accreditation.

Over time, the Medical Training Survey will enable the AMC to build a longitudinal view of how training programs are being experienced by trainees across Australia and whether College initiatives to improve training having a positive impact from the trainees' perspective. This has the potential to strengthen further the voice of trainees within AMC accreditation assessments and monitoring activities. Importantly, it also has the potential to enable the AMC to sharpen further the focus issues relating to accreditation standards with a view to streamlining accreditation assessment and annual monitoring activities.