

COMMITTEE OF PRESIDENTS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

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Dear Professor Wilson

Thank you for meeting with the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) recently to discuss the options arising from the Review of Medical Intern Training as overseen by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

CPMC circulated the options paper to all members and therefore you may receive responses directly from individual specialist Medical Colleges in relation to this matter.

The Options paper very succinctly sets out the feedback received in phase one which showed the intern experience as highly variable in quality of supervision and in the clinical experience and development of procedural skills, and importantly, the review has found the current internship model is no longer fit-for-purpose.

In considering the two broad pathways for reform which reflect incremental improvements to the current model or significant changes, it does not seem appropriate to make incremental changes to a model which is no longer fit-for-purpose. There are some simple changes which universities could make to better prepare medical graduates in transitioning to practice as set out in the section discussing Options A and B such as enabling greater patient exposure and clinical experience in the final years of medical school which should be supported, to therefore lessen the pressure on the internship for these skills.

CPMC supports moving towards a two-year postgraduate program rather than a two-year integrated program. Option C is preferred because in order to make significant change which has practical implementation potential, it is better to utilise part of the existing model with refinement and add accreditation processes (certifications) than to make major changes involving universities who as self-regulating autonomous institutions, may not implement any new model uniformly. Any new model would require a period of transition to enable pilot testing.

On behalf of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges I would like to thank you for your time in discussing the options put forward by the review team and we look forward to receiving further updates on this important policy development process.

Yours sincerely,



For Professor Michael Permezel
Deputy Chair, CPMC