

Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges

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STRATEGIC POSITION STATEMENT

REBALANCING MEDICAL WORKFORCE: CLINICAL GENERALISM AND THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DOCTORS

BODY OF STATEMENT

- While there is a continuing need for the expert contribution of highly specialised doctors, CPMC recognises the need for an enhanced role for medical generalists within and across medical specialties.
- The medical generalist has a particular role in clinical team leadership, as the doctor who is best positioned to oversight medical care of the patient.
- An equitable distribution of doctors across geographic areas and reflecting priority community needs has implications for scope of practice, training and career pathways, remuneration and professional recognition. Planning and investment in regionally-based training and generalist medicine across major medical specialities is a priority.
- The wider health policy context is one of escalating health care costs, an ageing population, rising levels of non-communicable disease, rural health inequities and the larger cohorts of medical graduates moving into the vocational training phase of their careers.
- The CPMC therefore notes that a range of policy reforms are required, including:
 - Prioritising investment in generalist streams in specialty training
 - Innovation in supervision of trainees and accreditation of training posts
 - Innovation in technology, supervision and delegation arrangements to ensure appropriate access to both subspecialty expertise and generalist medical care