

Update on the National Training Survey

23 October 2018

The Medical Board of Australia is developing a National Training Survey (NTS) to better understand the quality of medical education in Australia.

Here's an update on some of the issues we're addressing as we progress.

What's happened since the last progress update?

Since the last update in August 2018, we have:

- advertised for an external provider to administer the NTS and analyse the results
- drafted questions for the NTS, with advice from the Steering Committee and Advisory Group, and
- changed the timing so the NTS will start in August 2019, in sync with the annual medical registration renewal cycle.

Decisions and implications

As we develop the survey, we continue to fine tune our approach. Some of the recent decisions include:

- sending each doctor in training an invite to complete the survey using a unique survey link, with confidentiality safeguards and assured data security
- tailoring the survey questions to specific groups of doctors in training, to get more accurate and differentiated results. There will be five versions of the NTS, one each for:
 - interns/PGY1
 - prevocational/unaccredited trainees
 - specialist non-GP trainees
 - specialist GP trainees, and
 - International Medical Graduates.
- administering the survey at renewal of registration, to streamline the process and (we hope) increase NTS participation rates. Anyone who identifies as a doctor in training will get access to the survey after they have completed their registration renewal and the workforce survey. Doctors in training who do not have general registration will be emailed an invitation to participate
- including the question '*Are you a doctor in training?*' in the 2018 renewal of registration process, to get a better idea of the number of doctors in training currently completing their medical training in Australia, and
- inviting Career Medical Officers who intend to undertake further postgraduate medical training to complete the NTS.

What other issues are you still thinking about?

Our main focus since August has been on developing and refining the survey questions and shaping the Request for Proposal. We have also started to consider and discuss:

- how the results will be reported in a timely way and used to improve medical training
- how to reassure trainees about confidentiality, data security and guaranteed safety to provide honest feedback
- what language in the questions will best resonate with doctors in training
- which questions will best capture the quality of medical training in Australia, and
- how to maximise trainee participation, to increase the value of the survey.

What happens next?

In having the NTS ready for August 2019, we are continuing:

- to seek feedback and refining the survey questions, by testing the language and logic of the draft questions
- the process of appointing an independent agency to conduct the survey, hold the data and manage reporting, and
- to engage with key stakeholders, especially doctors in training, about how to communicate the NTS, increase participation rates and ensure questions in the survey capture the quality of medical training in Australia.

Who are we working with?

We are working with representatives from junior doctors, jurisdictions, Australian Medical Association, Australian Medical Council, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, Doctors Health Services, Directors of Clinical Training, Postgraduate Medical Councils, Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand and the Medical Board to develop, test and implement the National Training Survey.

You can read more about their role and membership on the [Medical Board website](#).

We also presented a National Training Survey progress update and invited feedback from doctors in training at the Australian Medical Association Council of Doctors in Training forum in Sydney, July 2018, and sought feedback from the Australasian Junior Medical Officers' Forum Committee members on ways to increase participation rates and effectively communicate the National Training Survey.

How can I get involved?

Send us an email to NTS@ahpra.gov.au if you would like more information or are interested in helping us develop the NTS.