

Update on the National Training Survey

6 December 2018

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

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

What's happened since the last progress update?

Since the last update in October 2018, we have:

- progressed the **procurement of an external provider**. The external provider will administer the survey and will analyse and report on the results.

There was great interest in the Request for Proposal with a number of high quality submissions received. We are expecting to appoint a provider early in 2019.

- further **refined the questions** in the National Training Survey with our Steering Committee and Advisory Group. We will also be testing the questions externally.
- determined that **more than 28,000 doctors identified as being 'in training'** at the 2018/19 renewal of registration. We specifically asked all doctors who were renewing their registration whether they were a doctor in training. The 28,000 excludes interns and international medical graduates who do not renew at this time.

What are the emerging issues?

Our focus has been on drafting survey questions that are clear and will give us useful information about medical training and on appointing an external provider who will administer the survey and report on results. Other issues we are looking at as we develop the NTS, include:

- **Using results:** We are encouraging our stakeholders to start thinking about how they will use the results of the NTS to improve medical training. While the Medical Board and AHPRA can administer and report on the survey, we rely on other stakeholders to make positive changes to improve training.
- **Communication:** We're thinking very carefully about how to get as many doctors in training as possible to participate the survey. We will be reassuring potential participants that it's safe and confidential to take part; encouraging them that sharing information about what is right and wrong with medical training is the best way to improve it; and asking everyone with a stake in improving medical education to encourage doctors in training to take part. We are thinking about podcasts, social media platforms, e-newsletter copy for stakeholders and loads of other ideas. If you have more, please share them with us!
- **Reporting:** We want to make it easy to use the results of the NTS to improve medical training, and to make the results as transparent as possible while protecting the confidentiality of participants. For example, we will not report when there are less than 10 responses. We are looking at providing tailored reports for jurisdictions and specialist colleges, in the context of a national report. Results will be published online, through a publicly accessible data dashboard, and

- Testing: We will be looking for volunteer doctors in training to 'road-test' the surveys, to iron out any glitches in the survey design and methodology

What happens next?

We are continuing to:

- fine tune our communication strategy to maximise participation and engagement in the NTS
- engage with doctors in training and key stakeholders to ensure the proposed National Training Survey questions are relevant and relatable.

Who are we working with?

We are working with doctors in training representatives and representatives from governments, 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.

We provided an update on the progress of the development of the National Training Survey at the Australian and New Zealand Prevocational Medical Education Forum in November 2018.

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.