

## Update on the National Training Survey

---

March 2019

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.

### What's happened since the last progress update?

Since December 2018, we are:

- finalising a contract with the successful bidder from the NTS procurement process. The external provider will administer the survey and analyse and report on the results.
- refining the NTS questions with our Steering Committee and Advisory Group. We will be testing these questions with doctors in training in late May/early June 2019.
- thinking about how we can engage with doctors in training and stakeholders to maximise participation in the NTS – please let us know if you have great ideas!
- developing a communications plan to make sure we release the NTS results as soon as we can, while avoiding the end of year holiday season.

### What are the emerging issues?

Some of the important ideas and challenges we are addressing as we get closer to the launch of the NTS include:

- NTS questions: As we refine the questions with feedback from our advisers, we keep looking at ways to ensure the questions are relatable to doctors in training, accurately capture data on the experience of medical training and yield useable data for stakeholders who can take action to improve medical training. We always review the NTS questions through a quality improvement lens.
- Increasing survey participation: We are always on the lookout for ways to maximise participation in the NTS when it goes live in on 1 August this year. Our advisers are sharing their ideas and we are investigating all of them, including:
  - nominating doctor in training survey champions who lead stakeholder engagement and encourage survey participation
  - encouraging our stakeholders to promote the NTS directly
  - asking state and territory members of the Medical Board to present at teaching sessions held by hospitals around Australia
  - asking College supervisors to encourage their doctors in training to complete the survey in study time, and
  - making sure the information we send out about the NTS and how to take part is clear and accessible, including in emails from the Medical Board and AHPRA.

- **Communication toolkit:** We are developing a communications resource for our stakeholders to use when promoting the NTS. It will include information about:
  - why we are doing the survey, what it's about and what it's designed to achieve
  - who is interested and has been involved in developing the NTS, and
  - promoting participation in the NTS.
- **Releasing results:** We are working on a schedule for publishing the results of the NTS. This is likely to be in early February 2020 – as soon as we can after the survey results have been analysed, avoiding the end of year holiday season, and allowing time to teach stakeholders how to navigate the online data dashboard so they can get the most out of the results and use them to improve medical training.

### What happens next?

We are now getting close to:

- testing the NTS questions with doctors in training to make sure they are relatable and easy to understand, and
- fine tuning the best ways we can engage with doctors in training and our stakeholders to promote and raise awareness of the NTS.

### Who are we working with?

We continue to work 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.

### How can I get involved?

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