



31 July 2013

National Workplace-based Assessment Workshop – ‘Beyond the Pilot’

This national workshop confirmed the value of the AMC Workplace-based assessment program, while promoting the sharing of innovative ideas to further strengthen the WBA Program.

On 6 and 7 June 2013 the Australian Medical Council, with the assistance of the Department of Health and Ageing, hosted a Workplace-Based Assessment (WBA) Workshop, attended by over sixty accredited providers, candidates and interested stakeholders.

Highlights included an open forum with current and past candidates of the WBA program, and presentations from Ms Jill Hall MP, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Health and Ageing, who noted that the WBA program is ‘innovation at the cutting edge’. Ms Monica Novick, Acting Executive Director,

Health Workforce Australia, and WBA program providers from around Australia provided informative presentations and workshopped innovative improvements for the program.



From left to right – Mr Ian Frank, Professor Kichu Nair AM, Professor Liz Farmer, Ms Jill Hall MP and Professor Barry McGrath

Liz Farmer, Chair of the Interim Accreditation Committee: ‘WBA is a world first program; highly innovative and although it is very small it is an example of assessment and evaluation working hand in hand, the feedback is continuous to candidates and is a key driver of why it is a successful program...It encompasses professionalism assessment which is very hard to assess, programmatic form of assessment and at the end of the period of time you have a well supervised, well mentored doctor acclimatised to the Australian system.’

Key workshop outcomes included:

- **Endorsement and support of the current program** – overwhelming support to address the issues such as standardisation of assessment tools, sustainability of programs, and recruitment and retention of assessors to improve existing programs.
- **Agreement on the need for resource development** – direction on what resources are required by WBA providers, including a candidate resource book and assessor training DVDs.
- **Networking and shared knowledge** – WBA program managers and directors have expressed motivation to work together to share knowledge and mentor new providers.

The Australian Medical Council thanks everyone who contributed to this successful and informative event. We look forward to developing initiatives arising from the workshop.