



MEDIA RELEASE

AMC Recruits Professor David Ellwood to Head Medical School Accreditation Committee

29 March 2010

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) today announced the appointment of internationally recognised obstetrician, Professor David Ellwood, as chair of the AMC's Medical School Accreditation Committee.

In November 2010, Professor Ellwood will succeed Professor Michael Field as chair of the Committee. Professor Ellwood is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Deputy Dean of the ANU Medical School in Canberra.

Professor Ellwood said he would be drawing on his experience participating in AMC medical school and specialist college accreditation programs, as well as his involvement in helping to establish new clinical schools at Sydney University and the new ANU Medical School.

"I think everyone involved in accrediting medical schools values the AMC process. It is very much two way – as a school you learn a lot and the process also provides for the cross-fertilisation of ideas between schools," he said.

Professor Ellwood predicted that medical education in Australia was entering a period of consolidation after several years of significant change.

"The AMC statement of knowledge, skills and attitudes, detailed in AMC Accreditation Standards, indicate what the AMC, the accrediting body, and Australian Medical Boards agree are necessary for a medical graduate," Professor Ellwood said.

"The big challenge is to ensure that there are adequate clinical placements for all students and that they are maximising their educational opportunities," he said.

"There are 19 medical schools across Australia, each with a different approach to medical education. These schools are all producing graduates who occupy intern positions around Australia, and we need to know that every school is producing a graduate who is safe and competent to practise," he said.

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Another issue of interest which he identified was the emerging relationship between the AMC and Health Workforce Australia, a new agency established by the Council of Australian Governments that will oversee and manage major reforms to the Australian health workforce.

AMC President, Professor Richard Smallwood AO, said the AMC and the Committee would be further strengthened by Professor Ellwood's appointment.

"We have been extraordinarily well served by Professor Michael Field as Chair of this important AMC Committee, and are delighted to be able to hand that important role over to someone of Professor Ellwood's capacity and insight," Professor Smallwood said.

The Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University, Professor Ian Chubb said:

"The AMC's Medical School Accreditation Committee plays a vital role in ensuring Australian and New Zealand graduates meet the highest standards.

Professor Ellwood is ideally qualified to take on this influential role and the ANU wishes him well in it. The ANU Medical School is a relatively young one, and this welcome news is a vote of confidence in the school, as well as in Professor Ellwood."

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Background Information

The AMC:

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is an independent national standards body for medical education and training. Its purpose is to ensure that standards of education, training and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.

The Medical School Accreditation Committee

The Medical School Accreditation Committee oversees the process for assessment and accreditation of the medical programs of Australian and New Zealand university medical schools.