



**STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL
ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL AT
JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY**

Australia's national accreditation and standards body for basic medical education, the Australian Medical Council (AMC), is considering a proposal from James Cook University for the establishment of a new medical school.

AMC President Dr Kerry Breen said: “The Australian Medical Council is a standards body, and its accreditation process exists to provide assurance of the standards of the graduates of the Australian and New Zealand medical schools. The AMC supports diversity between medical schools in their approaches to medical education, and it considers the James Cook proposal to be an innovative one that offers the possibility of a new model of medical school for Australasia, with a major emphasis on teaching medical students in the community, and in rural and remote settings. As this is the first proposal for a new medical school considered by the AMC since its establishment in 1984, the Council intends to work closely with the University in setting up a process to assess the proposal.”

The Australian Medical Council has published Accreditation Guidelines that include recommendations to medical schools on the principles that the AMC considers essential for successful undergraduate medical education. These give guidance on the overall goals and objectives of medical education, the structure and content of the medical course, teaching and learning methods and settings, and the physical and human resources necessary to deliver the medical course. The AMC will assess the new medical school proposal against these Guidelines.

The Council has set up a small team to advise James Cook University as the AMC assessment process unfolds. The chair of the team, Professor Ian Simpson of the University of Auckland, said: “The AMC will not proceed to an assessment of the new medical school until the University has commitments from the appropriate health and education authorities concerning student places and health facilities and resources. At this stage, the AMC has an outline of the University’s plans, but it will require more detailed information before it can gauge the University’s capacity to manage the development and to implement a new medical school. In the first instance, I expect the team to advise on the additional information that will be required and to negotiate a time frame for assessment of the proposed medical curriculum.”

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