

Participant Information Sheet

Researcher:

The 2018 Preparedness for Internship Survey is a joint project between the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Medical Board of Australia (the Board), the organisations which set standards for medical school programs and the intern year.

The supervising researcher is Professor Jane Dahlstrom, Interim Dean College of Health And Medicine, Australian National University

Project Title: The Australian Medical Council and Medical Board of Australia National Preparedness for Internship Survey

General Outline of the Project:

- **Description and Methodology:** The data from this survey will assist the AMC and the Board to understand how well medical school training is preparing graduates to work safely as junior doctors working under supervision. It will also assist medical schools to align training with the real demands of the job. The survey methodology is mostly multiple choice questions on a Likert scale, designed to enable comparisons of self-perceived skills.
- **Participants:** The survey results will be sent to all interns who graduated from Australian medical schools – a target group of about 3500.
- **Use of Data and Feedback:** The anonymised and aggregated survey results will be communicated in a number of forms. Results will be analysed by the AMC and sent to the Board, medical schools, governments, and various stakeholder organisations with interests in medical education. The survey results will also be sent to all interns in the target group through emails sent by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Some survey results may be published in peer-reviewed journals, if they are deemed to constitute a significant addition to knowledge in the domain of medical education.
- **Project Funding:** The survey costs for staff time, travel and other resources dedicated to the project will be borne by the AMC and the Australian Health Practitioners Agency.

Participant Involvement:

- **Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal:** The survey is voluntary and anonymous. There is no penalty for not participating. Whether or not you participate will not be known to anyone, including the AMC or the Board. You can choose to answer some or all or none of the questions. Once you submit your answers it is not possible to withdraw your survey response because the AMC cannot identify which response is yours.
- **What does participation in the research entail:** Your participation entails the completion of a short survey, which you can complete at any time in the two weeks the survey is open. You can choose to omit questions. You may interrupt your completion of the survey and come back to it later and the survey will resume at the point that you left off. The survey content deals with your view of your level of preparedness for internship after graduating from medical school.

- **Location and Duration:** The survey is online and should take less than ten minutes to complete. It can be completed on a computer, tablet or mobile.
- **Benefits:** A core aim of medical school training is to make sure that graduates are prepared to start work safely as junior doctors working under supervision. The data from this survey assists us to understand how well medical schools are meeting that objective, and provides valuable information on how best to align training with the real demands of the job. This survey your opportunity to shape the future of medical training in Australia, and should create future benefits for medical graduates as they transition to internship.

Confidentiality:

- **Confidentiality:** Several steps have been taken to protect confidentiality. These include:
 - AHPRA is sending the emails to interns to satisfy privacy and confidentiality regulations.
 - The first email will tell interns about the survey and why it is being done; the second will contain a link to the survey. The link is one-use only, will stop working when interns have completed the survey and is untraceable by the Medical Board, AHPRA or the AMC. The unique survey link is randomly generated and unconnected to identifying information held by AHPRA or the MBA.
 - The AMC is analysing the data.
 - Because the survey invitation emails will be sent by APRHA and anonymous responses held by the AMC neither organisation can link a survey response to an individual.
 - Only de-identified, aggregated data will be published and shared.

Data Storage:

- **Where:** De-identified survey results and any extracted data file will be stored in a password-protected file in the Australian Medical Council's (AMC) system, which is accessible only to the AMC's Information Systems Administration and researchers working on the project.
- **How long:** The results will be kept for at least five years to facilitate longitudinal research and will be reviewed in line with the Australian Medical Council's data retention policy.
- **Handling of Data following the required storage period:** After the end of the storage period the de-identified data will be archived. These data may be used in future comparative research projects eg comparing graduates perceptions of their competence in prescribing to the perceptions of future graduates who have completed different educational activities.

Queries and Concerns:

- **Contact Details for More Information:** If you have any questions about the survey you can contact the AMC by email at internsurvey@amc.org.au or the Primary Investigator, Professor Jane Dahlstrom by email at jane.dahlstrom@anu.edu.au or 02 62442892
- **Contact Details if in Distress:** If you feel that you would like to discuss issues that are raised in this survey further, please contact the Medical Education Officer or the Director of Clinical

Training in your hospital. If you do not want to raise these issues with hospital personnel, please contact the Doctor's Health Advisory Service in your state or territory:

Australian Capital Territory 02-9437-6552
New South Wales 02-9437-6552
Northern Territory 08-8366-0250
Queensland 07-3833-4352
South Australia 08-8366-0250
Tasmania 03-9495-6011
Victoria 03-9495-6011
Western Australia 08-9321-3098”

Ethics Committee Clearance:

- The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2018/575). If you have any concerns or complaints about how this research has been conducted, please contact:

Ethics Manager
The ANU Human Research Ethics Committee
The Australian National University
Telephone: +61 2 6125 3427
Email: Human.Ethics.Officer@anu.edu.au