



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Australian Medical Council Assessment of University of Notre Dame Australia School of Medicine, Sydney**

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**9 August 2010**

The Australian Medical Council is conducting a follow-up assessment of the four-year graduate entry course offered by the University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney School of Medicine. This assessment forms part of the cycle of AMC accreditation of this new medical program, which took its first students in 2007.

AMC accreditation of a new medical program begins in the year before the program is introduced. In preparation for this assessment, the University of Notre Dame Australia presented: the outline of the full four-years of the course and detailed plans for the first two years; details of the financial, physical and staff resources available to design and implement all years of the course, and to support the course when fully established; and an institutional assessment of strengths and weaknesses.

Because the University chose to present the detailed curriculum plans in stages, the AMC completed a follow-up assessment in 2009 to consider the development of plans for years 3 and 4 of the medical program, which were to be implemented from 2010. This assessment raised concerns regarding the pace of progress towards implementation of years 3 and 4 and the organisation of the resources necessary to make this phase a success. The AMC decided to complete a further assessment in 2010.

The 2010 AMC team visited the School and clinical teaching sites in April. Shortly after the visit, the University advised that the Dean of the School had resigned. Because of the importance of leadership of the School in this busy implementation phase, the AMC concluded that it was not able to complete its assessment of the program and would need to review the implementation of the curriculum in the changed circumstances. The University is taking steps to fill the Dean's position permanently and in the interim had appointed the Dean of its Fremantle School of Medicine as Acting Dean for Sydney.

The AMC has held discussions with senior university officers, School staff and students to consider priorities for the School and to determine how the AMC will complete its assessment of the program and reach a decision concerning ongoing accreditation.

The 2010 AMC team will complete its assessment following a further visit to the School and clinical teaching sites in October 2010. The AMC Directors will then make a decision about ongoing accreditation and provide advice of its decision to the Medical Board of Australia.

**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL**

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