

## **AMC reaccredits the medical course at Flinders University**

The medical course offered by the Flinders University School of Medicine has been reviewed and reaccredited for the maximum period by the Australian Medical Council (AMC), the national standards body for medical education.

The course has been accredited for six years in the first instance, with provision for an extension to ten years subject to satisfactory periodic reports to the AMC.

Earlier this year, a seven-member team of experts from Australian and New Zealand medical schools spent a week visiting the School of Medicine and its teaching sites in South Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

The team met with students, staff, clinicians, general practitioners, hospital managers and community members. Following the visit, the University was presented with a detailed report.

Flinders was the first Australian Medical School to introduce a four-year, integrated graduate medical course which is now nationally and internationally recognised. The course has been adopted as a model by other schools, in Australia and elsewhere.

The Dean of the School of Medicine at Flinders, Professor Lindon Wing, said he welcomed the AMC's further endorsement of the course.

'The Graduate Medical Program offers students an integrated approach to medical education, based on the principles of problem-based and self-directed learning.

'The AMC's review is important to any medical school,' Professor Wing said. 'It provides us with valuable feedback and assures us we're on track with national best practice.'

Flinders started offering medical education in 1974 in what remains a unique teaching environment, where a purpose-built hospital, the Flinders Medical Centre, is collocated with the medical school.

The Flinders Medical Centre continues to be a key teaching environment for Flinders students, although the School of Medicine has branched out into a full range of clinical settings, including metropolitan hospitals and general practices and remote and rural communities and hospitals.

Chair of the AMC review team, the University of Auckland's Professor Phillippa Poole, said the Flinders course was an exemplar.

'Many schools have borrowed from the Flinders model. They were one of the first to grapple with problem-based learning, and they continue to innovate and renew their curriculum with enthusiasm and energy.'

An example of innovation is the Parallel Rural Community Curriculum (PRCC) program in which students spend a year in a rural community, working in general practices, hospitals and other clinical settings.

The University already offers students a range of options through its Northern Territory Clinical School. The extension of the PRCC model will provide enhanced opportunities for students in rural communities in the Territory.

Further information:

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