



## Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee

### Communiqué – 10 March 2021

The Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met via videoconference on 10 March 2021. MWRAC has continued to oversee the development of the National Medical Workforce Strategy (the Strategy).

MWRAC Co-chairs, Professor Jennifer May and Ms Penny Shakespeare, thanked members for their contributions and feedback during stakeholder consultation on the draft Strategy in December 2020 and January 2021.

The Commonwealth provided a briefing on the feedback received during consultation and the revisions to the Strategy discussed at the National Medical Workforce Strategy Steering Committee meeting on 15 February 2021.

The Committee agreed that MWRAC would be extended beyond the current end date of 30 June 2021 while new governance arrangements are developed for implementation of the Strategy.

The Commonwealth presented available data on medical workforce and the impact of COVID-19 on migration. This included information on domestic and international medical student numbers, International Medical Graduates (IMGs), available data and current data gaps. The presentation included:

- Medical student commencements – including the proportion of Commonwealth supported places;
- International medical student admissions;
- Inflows and outflows of IMGs;
- Movement between Non-Vocationally Registered (non-VR) and Vocationally Registered (VR) GPs; and
- Distribution of GPs in Modified Monash Model areas 3-7.

Members discussed the importance of an improved and coordinated data strategy to inform workforce planning. MWRAC will continue to consider migration and IMGs and interaction with relevant policy settings in future meetings.

The Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) and the Australian Medical Council (AMC) presented on their reviews of the impact of COVID-19 on medical workforce training and accreditation:

- The CPMC project will analyse the impact of COVID-19 on specialist training and the accreditation system, and the innovations developed in response to the pandemic. The project includes a literature review, a stakeholder consultation and a final report, including policy recommendations supporting an innovative, appropriately trained and supported medical workforce.

- The AMC project will document opportunities to streamline assessment programs and will scope barriers and enablers of equitable access to learning. The AMC is conducting a series of workshops to help inform this work.
- A further report will be presented on the completion of the project