

Information for postgraduate medical councils on the AMC and Medical Board of Australia intern survey 2017

AMC and Medical Board of Australia join forces on intern survey

A survey designed to find out how work-ready interns feel after medical school and improve how medical schools prepare graduates for internship will be sent to all interns in Australia in August 2017.

The survey will be online, voluntary and anonymous. De-identified and aggregated results data will be published and shared with training and standards organisations, including postgraduate medical councils, to improve future medical training. Privacy and confidentiality are guaranteed.

The survey is a joint effort between the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), which set national standards for medical school programs and the intern year. The Steering Committee for this survey is chaired by Professor Brendan Crotty, Chair of the Board of the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria.

What can you do?

The AMC is seeking your help in promoting this survey through your links with health services, Directors of Clinical Training and Medical Education Officers. Please distribute the attached message to DCTs and MEOs (the doc named “Intern survey joint statement - Directors of Clinical Training-Medical Education Officers”), as well as the attached flyer (“Intern Survey Flyer”). We would welcome their help to encourage interns directly to complete the survey.

Why are the AMC and MBA surveying interns?

A core aim of medical student training is to make sure that medical graduates are prepared to start work safely as junior doctors working under supervision.

‘We want to hear directly from interns about their experiences and find out how well they think their medical training prepared them for the workplace,’ said MBA Chair, Dr Joanna Flynn AM.

‘There is a big jump in expectations from student placement to working as an intern and being responsible for patient care. By understanding the issues interns face, we can help the agencies who influence medical training to better prepare graduates for the workplace,’ she said.

AMC President, Associate Professor Jillian Sewell AM, said while medical graduates enter internship well qualified by their education and training, there are challenges in the transition from student to intern.

‘When they start their internship, interns take on clinical responsibility, need to adapt to the culture and expectations of the workplace, learn to work in teams, manage the pace of work and handle sometimes stressful, demanding situations,’ she said.

The survey results will help the MBA and the AMC address difficulties in the transition from medical school to the workplace, close potential gaps in training and avoid duplication between intern and medical school training.

About the survey

The survey:

- is online, voluntary and anonymous – de-identified and aggregated data will be shared with training and standards organisations, to shape future training improvements.
- is a joint effort from the Australian Medical Council and the Medical Board of Australia, supported by AHPRA with safeguards to protect privacy and confidentiality.
- will be emailed to all interns in Australia in August 2017 and open for two weeks. AHPRA will send the emails and the AMC will analyse the data.
- is quick to complete.
- is designed to help the agencies that influence medical training better prepare graduates for the workplace.

Confidentiality safeguards:

- 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, followed by an email with 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.

Survey results:

- De-identified, aggregated data will be published on the AMC and the MBA websites.
- The AMC will share de-identified survey data with medical schools for benchmarking purposes.
- The AMC will share de-identified results data with postgraduate medical councils to allow them to benchmark local results against collated state and territory data.
- Survey outcomes will inform the review of the standards for medical school programs and for the internship.

Queries

If you have any questions, please contact the AMC at: internsurvey@amc.org.au.