

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc (Medical Deans)

Consultation: Medical Board of Australia - funding external doctors' health programs

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand Inc (Medical Deans) is the peak body for professional entry-level medical education, training and research in Australia and New Zealand. Its members comprise the Deans of the 18 medical schools in Australia and 2 New Zealand medical schools.

Medical Deans is pleased to respond to the consultation on the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) funding external doctors' health programs.

The Victorian Doctors' Health Program (VDHP) provides a broad range of services to medical students and practicing doctors with a range of health problems that impact on their capacity to practice, and potentially on patient safety. The Board will be aware that students and doctors in this situation often lack insight into their difficulties. Medical Deans believes that programs which provide confidential support for the health and wellbeing of doctors and medical students are invaluable.

Medical Deans acknowledges that in order to implement a national program, the annual registration fee may need to be increased. We believe that the benefits of a national program justify the small increase outlined in the consultation paper.

Medical Deans supports the continuation of the VDHP and the introduction of a national program based on the VDHP, which provides all of the services listed in question 4 of the Consultation Paper. We believe that a key feature of this program is access to face to face counseling and/or health care.



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