Understanding the dynamics of the medical workforce. An update on the MABEL longitudinal survey of doctors

Anthony Scott¹, John Humphreys², Catherine Joyce², Guyonne Kalb¹

¹. University of Melbourne
². Monash University
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- NHMRC Health Services Research Grant
- Participating doctors
- Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing
- 38 endorsing organisations
- Policy Reference Group
Aims

- To provide an update on the MABEL longitudinal survey of doctors
  - Wave 1 and Wave 2 response rates
  - Current research in progress
Areas of research

Workforce participation outcomes and key determinants

- Family circumstances
- Job location
- Workplace characteristics

Income

Job satisfaction

Number of hours worked

Decisions:
- Change job
- Move location
- Choose specialty
- Exit medical workforce

www.mabel.org.au
Wave 1 (2008)

- Wave 1 respondents were broadly representative in terms of age, gender, geographic location, and hours worked, compared to all doctors in Australia.
- Further details are in Joyce et al (2010).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctor type</th>
<th>All doctors</th>
<th>GP</th>
<th>Specialists</th>
<th>Hospital Non-specialist</th>
<th>Specialists in training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Total</td>
<td>54,750</td>
<td>22,137</td>
<td>19,579</td>
<td>8,820</td>
<td>4,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Useable responses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with at least one question answered)</td>
<td>10,498</td>
<td>3,873</td>
<td>4,310</td>
<td>1,451</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Not eligible (i.e. retired, no longer in clinical practice)</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response rate</td>
<td>19.36%</td>
<td>17.65%</td>
<td>22.34%</td>
<td>16.52%</td>
<td>20.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wave 2 (2009)

- 15,871
  - 10,498 plus top up sample
- Returners
  - 80.4% (8,254)
- Top up sample
  - 38.2% (2,138)
- Overall
  - 65.5% (10,392)
Selection of papers in progress

- Online, paper or mixed? A randomised trial and economic evaluation of the effect of response mode on response rate, response bias, and item non response in a survey of doctors.

- Are doctors satisfied with their work? Results from the MABEL longitudinal survey of doctors.

- Getting doctors into the bush: preferences for rural location of General Practitioners.


- What factors influence the earnings of GPs and medical specialists in Australia?
Summary

- Largest longitudinal survey of doctors in Australia

- Wave 1 – important baseline data

- Data now available for others to use