Medical education in Australia: trends and issues
• New title for representative forum for Australian (and now New Zealand) medical school Deans

• Objectives:
  – uphold quality standards
  – share innovation
  – encourage medical students to reach for the highest personal and professional standards;
  – pursue national issues in medical education and research
  – promote understanding of the role medical education in the community
  – foster communication and relationships
Growth of medical schools & rural clinical schools…
Domestic student intake into Australian medical programs

Students numbers

Year

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006

Victoria
Tasmania
Western Australia
Queensland
NSW/ACT
South Australia
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Queensland</th>
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Total first year medical school intake

Year

Numbers

International

Domestic

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006
Issues (education)

- Undergraduate vs graduate programs
- Curriculum pressures with shorter courses
- Clinical teaching capacity - a rate-limiting step
- Changing character of tertiary public teaching hospitals (quicker, sicker)
- Subsidised private insurance & greater use of private hospital system (no historical teaching role)
- Greater emphasis on community-based teaching & ‘teaching health system’ not ‘teaching hospital’
- ‘Rural pipeline’ – recruitment, curriculum, delivery, relationship
- Research Quality Framework and potential tier of ‘teaching only’ medical schools
Issues (resources)

- Federal vs state government funding of clinical education roles of health system
- Physical infrastructure in regions and community sector (consulting rooms, tutorial space, student accommodation)
- Clarification of role of Health Department vs Education and Training Department.
- Tight funding environment for universities generally (pressure on medical school budgets)
- Pressures from increasing fee-paying international (& domestic) students to generate income
- Affordability of physician leaders for teaching