

UWA doctors left without internships for the first time

Making contact:

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Ask to speak with your MP regarding UWA International Medical Student Internships. If they are unavailable, ask to leave a message and for them to call you back.

Background:

- Seven international students, who have studied medicine at UWA for six years, do not have a 2017 internship
- This is the first time a WA medical student hasn't received an internship
- An internship enables a medical student to receive a medical license to practice (qualification)
- Since 2000 the number of medical graduates in Australia has more than doubled, rising from 1,660 in 2000, to 3,484 in 2014

Five concerns with local international students not securing an internship:

1. WA loses its investment in medical student education

- State and Commonwealth Governments invest \$\$\$ into medical student training
- WA health system devotes time and resources to all students
- This is all lost when the student has to leave the state

2. International students contribute \$\$\$ to our economy

- Higher education is Australia's third biggest export industry
- UWA international medical students pay tuition fees of roughly \$300,000
- These funds support medical training for all students, including locals
- If internships aren't allocated this year, we could lose many of our future international students who won't see WA as a desirable place to study.

3. We need Australian-trained doctors

- Health Workforce Australia's workforce modelling shows we need more doctors
- WA hires a large number of foreign-qualified doctors mid-way through each year
- Why do we send home locally educated medical students only six months prior who've worked in the WA health system for 6 years already?

4. We have an ethical obligation

- There is a historical precedent for all WA students to receive an internship
- These students know our hospitals and community and have dedicated themselves to it
- There is a reasonable expectation that we provide them with a medical license to practice, not just a degree
- This requires a final year of investment which is the responsibility of the government rather than the university

5. We need to protect our future.

- Curtin Medical School plans to graduate doctors from 2021
- This problem will only grow as more local students will mean even less international students will receive internships.

Does your MP have further questions?

They can contact president@wamss.org.au or amsa@wamss.org.au for more information.