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3 February 2017



Mr Simon Cousins
President
Adelaide Medical Students' Society
Royal Adelaide Hospital
Eleanor Harrald Building
Level 1
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Simon

RE: Intern Appointments Expert Group | Communiqué about outcomes

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2017, about the outcomes of the intern appointments expert group. I note your concerns about the number of intern places available for medical graduates given the increase in the number of domestic students.

The SA MET Unit continually monitors South Australia's capacity to offer intern positions to South Australian Commonwealth supported medical graduates and liaises with both medical schools regarding student enrollment data. At this stage, we do not have a clear indication of the numbers graduating and we note that historically a percentage of domestic graduates do not take up an intern position in South Australia. We will continue to monitor the situation and work with the medical schools to ensure we have the most up to date information. If it appears that we need more intern positions for Commonwealth supported students, we will work with the Local Health Networks in South Australia to explore any options for an increase in intern positions. This will need to be done in line with service need and also ensuring the positions meet the accreditation standards for internship.

With respect to your questions that relate to merit based selection, we note that South Australia is one of three jurisdictions that does not currently use this method for intern appointments. It has been useful to explore the pros and cons of this approach with an expert group and at this stage there are no clear recommendations for change. As always, we constantly review our processes and communicate any changes as soon as we are aware of them.

The recommendation in the communiqué you referred to states that merit based selection for internship requires further input from stakeholders, including students and doctors in training. We will use formal communication channels to ensure appropriate consultation.

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Please be assured that we will continue to communicate the process for intern appointments on a regular basis including doing presentations to student groups, website updates and emails.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alison Jones". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Associate Professor Alison Jones
Manager
SA Medical Education and Training Unit