

Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee

Communiqué 7 June 2019

The Medical Workforce Reform Committee (MWRAC) met on 7 June 2019 in Melbourne.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) provided an update on the AIDA Specialist Trainees in the Medical Workforce Project, which seeks to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors to attain specialist medical qualifications. The final report is due in August 2019.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) provided an update on their progress with implementing the recommendations of the Australia's Future Health Workforce – Ophthalmology Report 2018. RANZCO discussed the impact of the undersupply of ophthalmologists on the provision of services and some of the barriers they are facing in addressing the undersupply. MWRAC members confirmed their support of RANZCO's ongoing efforts to address the ophthalmology workforce shortage.

McKinsey & Company (McKinsey) presented the results of the April-May 2019 consultations on the National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS) Scoping Framework, which included interviews and stakeholder forums held in Sydney, Perth and Mount Gambier. The issues most frequently raised by stakeholders during consultations included:

- geographic maldistribution;
- lack of coordination between medical workforce planning stakeholders;
- increasing subspecialisation;
- doctor-wellbeing;
- specialty over and undersupply;
- training pathway not managed end-to-end;
- service delivery and changing models of care;
- lack of diversity in the workforce; and
- doctor work-readiness.

McKinsey and the Department of Health discussed the draft NMWS Scoping Framework with members. The Scoping Framework identifies the vision and guiding principles that will underpin the NMWS, explores priority workforce issues and their root causes, and discusses opportunities to develop solutions. The Scoping Framework will be made publically available when finalised.

The next meeting of the MWRAC will be held on 30 August 2019.