

**Media Release
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Medical internship places still lacking as second round offers released

Today, hundreds of medical students will receive internships for next year in the second round of offers, but many still face uncertainty with latest figures indicating that approximately 244 graduates will miss out.

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) President Mr James Churchill said that governments and health services were working to correct the deficit and that fewer students were likely to be left without internships than initially anticipated.

"AMSA welcomes all efforts to provide enough internships for all Australian-trained medical graduates. It is promising to see that the most recent projected mismatch between medical graduates and internship positions is smaller than earlier projections," Mr Churchill said.

"However, we still have an unacceptable situation, where 244 medical graduates are likely to be left unable to complete the internship they need to gain full registration as doctors and work in the Australian communities that so desperately need their services.

"Governments must move quickly and think creatively to increase the number of medical internships available for next year. Delaying the creation of new internships would leave less time available to accredit and assure quality of these positions.

"Private and community settings may offer valuable opportunities to expand the number of available placements for medical interns. However, it is critical that the quality of training and supervision is maintained across all internship placements," he said.

AMSA has been warning of the looming internship deficit for some time, and late last month presented a petition of 6500 signatures to Australia's health ministers, asking them to provide internships for all graduates of Australian medical schools.

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