

Media Release
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AMSA: All talk and no action on internships
AMSA National Leadership Development Seminar (Twitter: #AMSAInIids)

Today, the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is calling for urgent and decisive action to increase the number of medical internships.

AMSA President, Mr James Churchill, said that while State and Federal Governments had repeatedly expressed their commitment to resolve the issue, time is running out to create enough internships for all medical graduates.

"There has been a commitment from all stakeholders to resolve this issue, but we are just not seeing the progress that we need to be seeing at this stage," Mr Churchill said.

"Everyone agrees that these internship positions are essential to ensure a sustainable health workforce, but nobody has committed the funding. This stand-off has gone on far too long and we now risk losing sight of the bigger picture.

"Without an internship a medical graduate cannot practise as a doctor in Australia," he said.

Each internship position requires a process of accreditation to ensure the junior doctor working in that position is able to provide safe and effective health while receiving adequate supervision and training.

"The lack of decisive action to address the internship crisis indicates a lack of appreciation of the time required to create and accredit these positions," he said.

According to the latest figures, 244 medical graduates are expected to miss out on an internship in Australia.

"It's just not good enough. Many communities experience significant barriers to accessing healthcare services.

"We have already invested a great deal of resources in training these students and we need to allow them to continue their training to minimise doctor shortage," Mr Churchill said.

Health Minister Tanya Plibersek and CEO of Health Workforce Australia Mr Mark Cormack will today speak with 100 of Australia's brightest medical student leaders at Parliament House to address this and other pertinent health and medical workforce issues.

AMSA President Mr James Churchill will be available to comment on the internship shortage, university fee deregulation and asylum seeker health outside the front of Parliament House, Canberra from **12pm today**, Tuesday 21st August.

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