

Update on the National Training Survey

14 August 2018

The Medical Board of Australia is developing a National Training Survey to better understand the quality of medical education in Australia.

Here's an update on some of the issues we're addressing as we progress.

Why have a survey?

The National Training Survey (NTS) aims to gather feedback from doctors in training (and, in time, their supervisors) in Australia to:

- better understand the quality of medical training in Australia
- identify how best to improve medical training in Australia, and
- recognise and deal with potential issues in medical training that could impact on patient safety, including environment and culture, unacceptable behaviours and poor supervision.

What are the emerging issues?

We are addressing a range of issues as we develop the NTS, including:

- Data security – using an independent agency at arm's length from the Medical Board and AHPRA to gather and hold survey data
- Confidentiality - ensuring it is safe for doctors in training to share their thoughts about their medical training, by making sure participants are not identified or re-identifiable
- Purpose – maximising the value of NTS data so it can be used to strengthen and improve medical training in Australia
- Reporting – making sure reports of NTS data protects the confidentiality of participants, but still gives employers and educators useful information that will help them strengthen and improve medical training
- Content – asking the right survey questions in the clearest way, so feedback from doctors in training can inform and improve medical training in Australia. We will be working with specialist colleges, doctors in training and employers as we develop the survey questions.
- Participation – striking a balance between encouraging survey participation and annoying potential participants with reminders
- Logistics – the NTS will be an online survey that functions across devices (i.e. PC, tablet and android)
- Consultation – working actively with doctors in training, employers and educators as we develop the NTS and
- Timing – the NTS will start in 2019 and improve over time, informed by experience.

What happens next?

Our immediate priorities as we develop the NTS are:

- Refining and consulting on the survey questions
- Appointing an independent agency to conduct the survey, hold the data and manage reporting and
- Planning how we will communicate about the NTS, to maximise participation rates and minimise annoyance.

We are also seeking advice about the best time to run the survey in 2019 and continuing discussions about the important issues outlined above. We will keep drawing on international experience and learning from the General Medical Council and other organisations so we can get the best value from Australia's National Training Survey.

Who are you working with?

We have established a **Steering Committee** and an **Advisory Group** to help us progress National Training Survey.

The Advisory Group gives the Board feedback on emerging NTS issues and answers questions, reflecting the diverse views of the organisations they represent. The group includes representatives from doctors in training, jurisdictions, Australian Medical Association, Australian Medical Council, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, Doctors Health Services, Directors of Clinical Training, Postgraduate Medical Councils, Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand and the Medical Board

The Steering Committee advises the Board.

You can read more about their role and membership [here](#).

How can I get involved?

Send us an email to NTS@ahpra.gov.au if you would like more information or are interested in helping us develop the NTS.