# Commonwealth Update

Martin Rocks, Assistant Secretary
Health Training Branch
Health Workforce Division



#### **Table of Contents**

- 1. RHMT Program
- 2. RHMT Budget Measures and Election Commitments
- 3. Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network (MDMSN)
- 4. National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS)
- 5. Updates on Current Medical Training Initiatives
  - Psychiatry Workforce Program (PWP)
  - Employment Entitlement Portability Scheme
  - Single Employer Model (SEM) Trials
  - John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP)
  - AGPT Transition next steps
  - Distribution under a College-led GP training model GPWPP activity





#### 2021 Data – RHMT Program



Over 360 6-month medical placements



More than 1,740 12-month medical placements



More than 3,620 short-term medical placements, amounting to over 19,100 training weeks



Over 8,950 nursing and midwifery placements, equating to more than 32,810 training weeks



More than 6,060 allied health placements, equating to over 44,770 training weeks



Over 250 Dental Training Expanding Rural Placements, equating to more than 1,990 training weeks



## **Budget Measures and Election Commitments**



New RHMT Rural Clinical Schools - \$14.8m



Two more University Departments of Rural Health - \$36.2m



Extension of the RHMT program in Aged Care Services - \$14.3m



Evaluation of the Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network - \$4.3m



New rural medical CSPs - \$99.3m



James Cook University – new medical program and CSPs

# Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network (MDMSN)



### **MDMSN** Funding



\$74.4 million initially (2018-19 FY to 2021-22 FY)



\$13.74 million for ongoing costs (to December 2024)

### **MDMSN** Evaluation

- Annual progress reports provide feedback to improve MDMSN outcomes.
- Medium to long term: will be evaluated as part of the broader Stronger Rural Health Strategy Evaluation.
- MDMSN Evaluation and monitoring framework to be implemented during 2022 and 2023.
- \$4.3 million invested for long-term evaluation of MDMSN.
  - For engaging consultancy firm to undertake evaluation and to imbed evaluation components within universities.



# National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS)



# National Medical Workforce Strategy (NMWS)

Working on the implementation phase of the NMWS

#### Key activities:

- Establish a joint medical workforce planning and advisory body to advise on structure of medical workforce. Development of decision-making framework and a phasing document is also underway.
- Plan for stakeholder engagement, starting in October and November
- Develop project management framework to support implementation and evaluation of NMWS
  - o Include Implementation Roadmap (for website publication by the end of 2022)
  - Work has commenced on implementing action items within the NMWS, including development of a hospital service registrar framework, development of a career portal and addressing themes of doctor wellbeing.



# Updates on Current Medical Training Initiatives



## **Psychiatry Workforce Program (PWP)**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) has been funded to implement PWP through four activities:

- 1. Encouragement of medical graduates pursuing psychiatry through RANZCP's Psychiatry Interest Forum.
- 2. Development of rural psychiatry training pathway and network.
- 3. Develop nationally recognised Diploma in Psychiatry for medical practitioners to broaden their skill set, enhance patient care and access to health care. An Expert Advisory Group will guide development.
- 4. Fund additional 20 psychiatry training posts and 20 supervisors (to be increased to 30 the following year)



# **Employment Entitlement Portability**Scheme

An employee entitlement portability scheme allows workers to move various leave entitlements from one job to another – so those that would not otherwise be able to accumulate leave will be entitled to do so.

#### **Current work**

- Feasibility study to explore employment portability, including annual leave, personal leave and parental leave for GP registrars
  - Extension: feasibility of expanding to rural GPs or other health professionals
  - Currently engaging with KPMG to scope design options
  - Final outcomes to be tabled in mid-2023

## Single Employer Model (SEM) Trials

The model allows GP registrars to be centrally employed by a single entity for the full duration of their training, providing the maintenance of salary and accumulation of leave entitlements.

#### **Current work**

- One trial currently established in the Murrumbidgee region (NSW), with the Local Health District employing the Rural Generalist registrar participants.
- Second trial commencing in the Riverland Mallee Coorong region (SA)
- Expansion of SEM trials included in the \$146 million rural workforce election commitment.

# John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP)

- Under 2020-21 Budget, the Government announced the implementation of the new John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP), commencing 1 January 2023.
- JFPDP will address concerns for more junior doctor training places, to grow the Australian workforce by delivering increased rural primary care rotation for hospital-based prevocational doctors in rural areas.
- The JFPDP will expand the number and distribution of rural primary care placements currently delivered.
- The JFPDP will increase rural medical training capacity and improved retention of medical graduates and junior doctors in rural medical practice and strengthen the rural training pathway to improve training continuity within their region.



## **AGPT Transition – next steps**

- College-Led Grant Training
  - o Collaboration with RTOs to transition in, include transfer of training data
  - Communication of college-led training models with training participants
- GP Workforce Planning and Prioritisation
  - New organisations will liaise with existing RTOs, Rural Workforce agencies, Primary Health Networks and jurisdictions
- National Consistent Payments framework
  - Finalisation and implementation of the communications plan
    - Includes resources to assist access to the Services Australia payment system
  - Finalisation of the Payment system build
- Aboriginal Health Training & Salary Support
  - Establishment of the Governance group
  - Employment of Cultural Educators and Cultural Mentors



#### Distribution under a College-led GP training model - GPWPP activity

GP Workforce Planning and Prioritisation Advice

GP registrar placement information

GP workforce and training data

Community needs and insights

Out of Scope for Grant Activity

Department of Health and Aged Care Sets distribution targets for delivery of Australian General Practice Training Program GP Colleges
Finalise Australian
General Practice
Training Program
training allocations and
placement decisions

Objective:

Robust AGPT distribution targets that support current and future community needs A collaborative approach to regional planning **Output:** 

Consolidated, regionally-based GP workforce planning and prioritisation advice Outcome:

A well distributed GP workforce to service all Australian communities GP registrars better informed and supported to train in a single region



#### **Questions?**

#### **Further Information**

MedicalSchoolsPolicy@health.gov.au RHMTPolicy@health.gov.au



