

Medical student's perceptions of general practice and the influence of different employment models

Oliver Little¹, Rebecca Kippen¹, Samia Toukhsati^{1,2,3}, Carla Taylor^{1,2}

¹ Monash University, Australia

² General Practice supervision Australia, Australia

³ University of Melbourne, Australia

Reform in GP registrar training and remuneration is a strongly debated topic with the key goal of improving healthcare access to Australians. In the rural context, this involves registrars who work across various clinical contexts. One proposed solution is a single employer model which centrally employs registrars on a set salary as they work across multiple clinical settings. This is a significant change to the current training model for GP registrars who generate their income through fee-for-service billings. This model was initially piloted in the Murrumbidgee region of New South Wales and has recently been announced state-wide in Tasmania.

This report examines key stakeholder and government policies and positions. 39 documents were analysed. The consensus among these stakeholders was supportive of employment reform, claiming it would encourage more medical students and junior doctors to enter general practice and level the playing field between hospital and community registrars. However, caution was advocated by some bodies including RACGP to avoid 'unintended consequences.'

In analysing the claims made to support these reforms, it was apparent that while enticing benefits were suggested, these were not supported by publicly accessible data or evidence. This includes a lack of available analysis for the Murrumbidgee pilot. Given this, it appears necessary for further research to be conducted to explore the claims made within these policies and positions to drive reform that meets the current needs of the health system.

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