**Rural Doctor Training Pipeline – Information**

The Rural Doctor Training Pipeline (RDTP) will increase capacity to train medical interns in alternative settings, such as private hospitals, and in rural and regional Australia, where there are traditionally fewer options for internship training. The RDTP will involve private hospitals, accreditation agencies and state and territory governments developing new internship training opportunities funded by the Australian Government. As all domestic medical graduates are expected to be placed into an internship by states and territories, RDTP positions will only be available to international full-fee paying international medical graduates who have completed their medical course in Australia in 2013 and who have not yet accepted an intern place for 2014. This information sheet has been developed to provide an overview of the RDTP initiative.

Applications will be called in mid-September 2013, in line with the national schedule of offers expected to be made by state and territory governments (it is expected that the second audit of state and territory intern acceptances and unplaced applicants will be complete by this time).

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants will have to meet all eligibility requirements. Applicants will have to:

- have completed their medical course in Australia in 2013; and
- have met, or will have met prior to commencement of internship, the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) English language requirements for registration purposes; and
- not be an Australian Citizen; and
- meet immigration requirements to allow them to work in Australia in 2014 (refer to the Department of Immigration and Australian Citizenship website for details [http://www.immi.gov.au/](http://www.immi.gov.au/)).

Applicants will not be eligible for an RDTP internship if:

- their medical degree was undertaken in an overseas campus of an Australian university;
- they have already accepted an internship position from a state or territory for 2014;
- they graduated in, or prior to, the 2012 calendar year or will graduate in the 2014 calendar year.
- they do not meet the MBA English language requirements before commencing internship.

**APPLICATION**

When the application round opens in mid-September, interested medical students will be asked to submit an application to the Department, including the following information:

- full name;
- university;
- date medical degree completed (or will be complete);
- Intern Placement Number (as provided to them by their medical school);
- email address/es;
- current home address or mailing address;
- a current telephone number (mobile or landline); and
- a short statement confirming that (1) all eligibility requirements for the RDTP described above met and (2) the student understands that accepting an RDTP internship will involve a Return of Service obligation (see below).

In the application, students will be able to include additional supporting information for forwarding to participating hospitals to help them determine which applicants may be more suitable candidates for the internships they are offering:

- a short description of any particular interests they may have as a medical intern; and
- the name and contact details of a referee related to their medical studies.

Applications should not be provided, and will not be accepted, until applications open. It is expected that this will be in mid-September. More information will be provided closer to this date. Applications will close one week from the opening date. (Applicants will need to agree that any details they provide can be forwarded, in confidence, to stakeholders (including private hospitals and state and territory governments) for the purposes of facilitating the allocation of medical internships in Australia for 2014, including as part of the National Internship Audit Process).
**Allocation Process**

Once applications have been received, details of all applicants will be made available to participating hospitals. These hospitals may contact applicants to discuss their interest in an RDTP internship. Participating hospitals will be requested to make offers during a specified time period. Applicants will then have a specified deadline to accept any offers.

If the applicant accepts an offer, both the applicant and the hospital must separately confirm to the Department that an agreement has been reached. The requisite documentation to formalise this decision will then need to be completed and submitted to the Department if the internship is to progress.

**Participation in the RDTP in 2014**

It is important to note that:
- participation in the RDTP is voluntary;
- an application to the RDTP initiative will not guarantee an internship for 2014;
- undertaking an internship under the RDTP will not guarantee employment after the internship;
- an RDTP internship may include a Prevocational General Practice Placement Program term;
- graduates who accept an RDTP internship position will need to complete 12 months' return of service if the internship is not served in a rural or regional area;
- failure to complete the internship year or the return of service period will result in the applicant having to repay the cost of providing the internship place. This may be up to $130,000;
- if part or all of the internship is completed in an approved return of service location, this will count towards the 12 month return of service period; and
- any internship which is offered cannot be swapped with another intern, cannot be undertaken part-time and cannot be deferred.

**Relationship to State / Territory Internship Processes**

RDTP is separate to state or territory intern allocation processes. However, work is continuing with state and territory governments to streamline the internship application and allocation process in each jurisdiction. In an effort to reduce the inefficiency and confusion which may emerge where one student submits several applications, the following policies will apply to the RDTP:
- RDTP applicants who accept an offer from a state or territory, will be removed from the RDTP process; and
- RDTP applicants who accept an RDTP internship offer will have their details provided to states and territories, which may alter the status of any offers or acceptances they have made with the applicant.

**Further Information**

Further information about the RDTP initiative will be provided as necessary, through the Medial Deans of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Medical Students Association and the Department's website.