



Junior Medical Officer Forum (JMOF) Report

May 2014

Since last meeting, the JMO Forum has focused on our core responsibility of seeking and advocating for the concerns of junior medical staff from across the territory. There has been limited progress on projects additional to this. Main areas of work and events are summarised below:

1. Face to face meeting in Alice Springs.

Our annual in person meeting was held on 10 May at Alice Springs Hospital. Seven attendees from the Top End joined 17 participants from Central Australia for an all-day program of speakers and discussion. Travel from Darwin and funding for administrative expenses was provided by the Health Innovation Fund. A highlight was a presentation from Marlene Spencer and Sarah Brown, Chair and CEO respectively of the Western Desert Nganampa Walytija Palyantijaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation. They spoke about their model for remote clinic haemodialysis and the other activities undertaken by their organisation to support dialysis clients.

2. Terms of Reference

Composed in 2009, this document was updated with input from Forum participants at the Alice Springs meeting. It outlines the conduct and structure of the JMO Forum and will provide a guide to Amy and I for work during the rest of the year.

3. PGY2+ accreditation

This is a topic that has provoked a lot of interest from junior medical officers around the country. No less so in the Northern Territory, where an expanded roster of accreditation to include resident positions is widely supported. Important benefits from our perspective include benchmarking of “service provision” roles with terms that are already highly regarded and improved patient care by better supported junior staff. We are now finalising a position statement on this topic, which I will forward to the Council once complete.

4. Supervision for rural and remote placements

During our Alice Springs meeting the Forum reviewed and updated an older statement on standards for rural and remote hospital placements. The original document had been composed in 2011; it was felt that workforce and supervision conditions had changed considerably since then. Participants included JMOs who were recently or currently placed at Katherine and Tennant Creek. Feedback highlighted that many positive changes have been effected at these regional hospitals at a resident level, and



that these efforts would need to be expanded to appropriately support the placement of interns. With this feedback and benefiting from the draft accreditation standards, we worked through the 2011 statement and updated it accordingly. This will be made available as the basis for advocacy on this topic once the document has been finalised.

5. CPMEC funding

Last week we received correspondence from Jag Singh, CEO of the CPMEC, stating that CPMEC would no longer receive Commonwealth Government funding. In his email, Jag reassured us that CPMEC support for AJMOC would be unchanged for the moment. However, Department of Health sponsorship for regional/remote JMOs to attend the Prevocational Forum will cease starting this year. At this stage we have not consulted with Forum participants regarding a letter of support addressed to Health Minister Dutton.

6. Australian Junior Medical Officers' Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 14 June in Melbourne. The agenda has not yet been set.

Dr Jeremy Hill

JMO Forum Co-Chair

June 2014