

NT JMOF September 2026

Report to Northern Territory Prevocational Medical Assurance

Services: Prevocational Accreditation Committee

The Northern Territory Junior Medical Officer Forum (NTJMOF) is pleased to be invited to present the latest report to the Prevocational Accreditation Committee about our current activities.

Committee members and guests:

Role	Name
Chair	Rochelle Cabry
Deputy Chair	Phoebe Deveraux
Secretary	Christine Mausolf
General Member	Ross Lomazov
IMG Rep	Sooraj Mannil
Student Rep	Jay Yeaman (MD2, Flinders NTMP)
Student Rep	Zahra Safi (MD2, Flinders NTMP)
Past Chair	William Schoneveld

Meetings:

Internal:

Meetings held on:

- 23 February 2026
- 26 March 2026
- 26 August 2026

Outcomes of meetings:

The NTJMOF has met throughout 2026 to discuss issues affecting junior medical officers across Central Australia and the Top End, with representation from Alice Springs Hospital (ASH), Royal Darwin Hospital (RDH), international medical graduates and Flinders NT Medical Program students.

Early meetings focused on orientation and access to information for JMOs. The Forum discussed the proposed implementation of a medical information app as a central location for orientation packages, current documents, announcements, teaching resources and hospital contact information. Members felt this could improve access to information and reduce reliance on multiple systems and emails, while emphasising that an app should supplement rather than replace face-to-face orientation and would only be useful if information remained current.

The Forum also provided feedback on the new procedure consent form and discussed the proposed Assistants-in-Medicine (AiM) program. Members recognised potential benefits for both students and clinical teams, but raised questions regarding scope of practice, supervision, the interaction with existing Flinders NTMP academic requirements, whether participation should be optional, and the potential additional workload for JMOs. These issues were subsequently raised in discussions with senior NT Health leadership. NTJMOF will not pursue AiM, decision made that the burden on JMOs would outweigh the benefit.

Intern recruitment was another major focus. NTJMOF planned promotion of NT internship opportunities, including an information webinar involving junior doctors and Medical Education Units from Darwin and Alice Springs. Members highlighted professional development funding, relocation support and other

benefits of working in the NT, while also seeking clarity regarding increasingly aligned Central and Top End recruitment processes. Webinar was largely successful.

IMG support has remained a standing priority. Issues raised included variable access to orientation, particularly when commencing new surgical or orthopaedic rotations, visa concerns, and ensuring that IMG feedback from both ASH and RDH is incorporated into broader workforce planning.

2027 workforce and recruitment:

The August meeting focused heavily on the transition toward an 'NT Medical Officer' workforce and the 2027 RMO recruitment process. Members reported inconsistent implementation between Central Australia and the Top End. The intended approach was understood to be that current NT JMOs would be treated as internal applicants; however, members reported that ASH and RDH had approached recruitment differently.

There was strong support for a genuinely centralised NT recruitment process. Members felt that, if NT Health is moving toward a combined workforce, junior doctors should not need to navigate substantially different application processes at ASH and RDH. A preferred model would allow applicants to nominate and preference hospitals through a consistent process.

Concerns were raised regarding communication and uncertainty during RMO recruitment, including the impact on JMOs who did not have alternative employment arranged, the lack of clear feedback or timeframes, and particular implications for IMGs requiring visa certainty.

The Forum also discussed the planned alignment of ASH and RDH RMO commencement dates in 2027. For the current ASH PGY1 cohort, this may create an approximately two-week gap between completion of internship contracts and commencement of RMO employment. Members sought clarification regarding options such as contract extension, remuneration and leave without pay, as well as any implications for completion of prevocational training requirements.

The planned introduction of RDH JMO rotations to ASH in Renal, Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology was discussed positively as a step toward greater movement across the NT. Members noted that reciprocal opportunities for ASH JMOs to access selected subspecialty rotations at RDH would also be valuable.

Intern workforce:

Members discussed the 2027 NTMP intern application process, including reports that some students were being directed toward Alice Springs despite not having applied for ASH positions. The Forum was concerned that workforce allocation processes should support, rather than undermine, longer-term retention of NT-trained doctors.

The expected growth in clinical student numbers with both Flinders NTMP and CDU was also discussed. Members noted that increasing student and graduate numbers will require corresponding attention to intern and RMO employment capacity, supervision, education and accommodation.

Regional JMO issues:

The Forum discussed concerns relating to junior doctors working in Katherine, including accommodation, transport requirements, and inconsistent access to supervision and education. These issues were identified as important considerations for the quality and sustainability of regional training placements.

Territory:

- Engagement with NT Health executive and Chief Medical Officer leadership regarding practical improvements for JMOs.
- Issues raised at ASH included access to food after hours, insufficient dedicated JMO space, IMG support and ongoing surgical workforce pressures.

- Discussion of the 'Every doctor, every setting' approach and a broader NT-wide medical workforce.
- ASH RMO Society activity has expanded in 2026, with a large committee and a focus on wellbeing, education and environmental health.
- The NT Health media team is developing a 'Territory Doctors' , with early concepts expected to be presented for JMO consideration after 14 September.

National:

National prevocational issues continue to inform NTJMOF discussions, particularly workforce attraction and retention, education, IMG support and wellbeing. The Forum will continue to engage with relevant national junior doctor and prevocational networks as opportunities arise.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this report and please don't hesitate to get in touch (via jmoforumnt@gmail.com) if you have any further questions or any projects you'd like us to collaborate on.

Kind regards,

NTJMOF Committee 2026