

AMACDT Meeting 5 March 2017. Sydney, NSW.

Summary and outcomes.

The AMA Council of Doctors in Training met in Sydney on 5 March 2017. The meeting was attended by more than 20 AMA doctor in training members and trainee committee representatives and included the Federal AMA Vice President and Secretary General. The meeting provided an opportunity for doctors in training from across the country to discuss current and emerging issues in medical education and training.

Doctor health and wellbeing

AMACDT met with Dr Janette Randall, Chair, Doctors Health Board, and Dr Jill Gordon, Vice President, NSW Doctors Health Advisory Service, to discuss the wider issue of doctor suicide, the triggers for death by suicide and what steps can be taken to reduce the risk of doctors dying by suicide. This followed the death by suicide of AMACDT Deputy Chair, Dr Chloe Abbott, in January 2017.

The AMACDT feels strongly that there are broader aspects of this tragic occurrence that the AMA should act upon in regards to doctors' health and wellbeing.

The AMACDT supports a national forum to ensure that the medical profession develops a coordinated and compassionate response to address doctor suicide. It supports changes to mandatory reporting laws to replicate the Western Australian model so that no doctor feels unable to seek care from another medical practitioner because they are worried of the stigma and impact on their careers and/or finances. It supports a campaign to normalise access to services for doctors who are stressed, burn out or depressed and the development of a national, common pathway to access support services.

Above all it supports a profession and health system that promotes good health and wellbeing practices for individuals and colleagues. Doctors' health and wellbeing will be a priority area of work for the AMACDT in 2017, with its session at AMA National Conference 2017 focussing on reducing the risk of doctor suicide.

Appointment of Deputy Chair

AMACDT received one nomination for the position of Deputy Chair from Dr Chris Wilson. AMACDT voted in favour of recommending to the Federal AMA President that Dr Wilson be appointed to the position of Deputy Chair until AMA National Conference in May 2018.

Other advocacy and policy

At its meeting the AMACDT advanced a number of important policy areas. These are summarised below and include:

- Approval of the revised draft AMA Position Statement on Prevocational medical education and training – 2017;
- Approval of the revised draft AMA Position Statement on Pre-Internships in Medical School- 2017;
- Approval of the draft AMA Position Statement on Best practice in assessment for vocational trainees – 2017;
- Approval the draft AMA Position Statement on The role of the AMA in training disputes with Colleges – 2017.
- Approval of a motion asking AMA Federal Council to express its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr Chloe Abbott, acknowledging the significant contributions made by Dr Abbott to the Association, the profession, the community and her patients; and

The next meeting of AMACDT will be held on 15-16 July 2017 in Canberra.

Dr John Zorbas, Chair, AMA Council of Doctors in Training
24 March 2017