



SENATOR DAVID POCOCK
Senator for the ACT

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email

Dear  Minister Clare

Re: Support for Additional Commonwealth Supported Places for ANU's Medical Program

I write to express strong support for the Australian National University's (ANU) request for additional Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) in its medical program.

The ACT is facing growing pressure on its healthcare system, with significant increases in both inpatient admissions and an aging population. Projections indicate a need for at least 33 additional interns by 2041, driven by the expansion of ACT hospital facilities, including the new northside hospital. Additionally, the ACT has fewer general practitioners per capita than the national average, highlighting an urgent need for more locally trained doctors who are connected to the ACT and the greater region.

ANU's medical graduates play a critical role in meeting these challenges, and the proposed increase in CSPs will ensure a steady pipeline of skilled professionals. I understand the ACT Government has expressed its full support for this request.

This initiative will also benefit NSW, where I understand additional CSPs at ANU could help address a projected shortfall of 165 to 212 doctors annually by 2040, particularly in the regional areas surrounding the ACT. I understand the ANU has an existing partnership with the Southern NSW Local Health District, which ensures students can be placed directly into these areas of need in the state. I am advised that the NSW Government has also provided a letter in support of the ANU's request.

The ACT and the southern NSW region share many of the same challenges in attracting and retaining a skilled medical workforce. While there is more work to do in ensuring our respective health systems provide competitive training options for graduates, ensuring we have a strong pipeline of locally trained students is critical to addressing growing workforce gaps.

I urge you to approve ANU's request for an additional 50 CSPs.

I have provided a copy of this letter to the ANU, the ACT Government and the NSW Government as a courtesy and I have CC'd the ACT's other federal representatives for visibility.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to speaking to you about this matter in due course.

Yours faithfully,

 Senator David Pocock

25 Oct 24

CC: Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Senator for the ACT
CC: The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Member for Fenner
CC: Alicia Payne MP, Member for Canberra
CC: David Smith MP, Member for Bean

**Andrew Barr MLA**

Chief Minister

Treasurer

Minister for Climate Action

Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development

Minister for Tourism

Member for Kurrajong

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Children, Youth and Family Services

Minister for Disability

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA

Vice Chancellor and President

Australian National University

vc@anu.edu.au

Dear Professor Bell

Genevieve

We are writing to express the strong support of the ACT Government for the Australian National University (ANU) in seeking to expand the number of students in its medical program. We consider this an important initiative to ensure the ACT can better meet its future medical workforce requirements as we continue to invest in healthcare to provide for the needs of the ACT and surrounding regions.

The establishment of the ANU Medical School in 2001 was a key initiative to address the medical workforce needs of Canberra and the surrounding NSW region. Local graduates are a key component in a sustainable pipeline of highly skilled doctors. The significant projected growth in future demand for both inpatient and outpatient services in ACT hospitals has informed the ACT Government's commitment to a new more than \$1 billion northside hospital. The projected increase in inpatient bed numbers, coupled with the existing growth in admissions by some 31 per cent over the period of 2012 to 2023 means that there is an estimated need for at least an additional 33 interns by 2041, above the current base of 100 intern places per year. This expanded demand exceeds the number of ANU medical graduates, which is currently in the region of 95 to 100 each year.

In addition, the community need for medical graduates will continue to increase as the population of those aged over 65 years is predicted to double over the next 40 years:

Total ACT population		Total Aged 65 Years and Over	Percentage
2021	453 558	60 323	13.3
2060	784 043	114 470	14.6

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This is against a backdrop of the number of general practitioners (GPs) in the ACT currently being below the national average. In the ACT there are 95 GPs per 100,000 population compared to the national average in Australia of 120 per 100,000.

To ensure there is sufficient medical workforce to meet community needs, the ACT Government supports ANU in seeking 50 additional student places in its medical program. Given the importance of ensuring that these graduates increase the provision of medical workforce in the ACT, we request that consideration be given to targeted recruitment of students from the ACT and southern NSW, who are more likely to remain in the region to commence their medical careers.

Thank you for the ongoing conversations with your team about this matter and please do not hesitate to reach out to Minister Stephen-Smith's office for further information. Canberra Health Services and ACT Health Directorate staff will work with ANU on the provision of any supporting information that may assist an application for additional places if you proceed.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

16 August 2024

The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Ref: H24/128905

Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell AO FTSE FAHA
Vice Chancellor and President
Australian National University
vc@anu.edu.au

Additional Commonwealth Support Places at the Australian National University

Dear Vice Chancellor

I write in support of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) proposal for the Australian National University's (ANU) medical program.

Undertaken in 2021, NSW Health modelling indicates the need for some growth in the medical workforce by around **165 to 212** new NSW doctors (over and above current inflows) per annum entering the workforce to meet community need in 2040 across both the low and high demand scenarios.

To ensure there is sufficient medical workforce to meet community needs, NSW supports additional CSPs including at the ANU. I note additional CSPs can have a major impact in rural and regionals areas and I appreciate the partnership ANU has with Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD) to provide clinical placements.

The establishment of the ANU Medical School in 2001 was a key initiative to address the medical workforce needs of Canberra and the surrounding NSW region. Local graduates have made an important contribution to the medical needs of the greater region and will continue to form part of the solution to our health workforce challenges.

NSW Health is committed to working with ANU in relation to student clinical placements within NSW Health.

Thank you again for writing. For more information, please contact my Chief of Staff at

Yours sincerely

Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



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