



Professor Jonathan Craig
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Mr Dom English
Acting Deputy Secretary
Higher Education Group
Australian Government Department of Education

4 November 2019

Dear Mr English,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the redistribution pool of medical Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) and the opportunity to comment on the options proposed in the discussion paper.

While noting the three options suggested in the discussion paper, we wish to suggest that the Department considers another option to the redistribution of places – a performance based allocation model, to be enacted every 4 years. Such a model would be aligned with Minister Tehan's approach to considering performance in the higher education sector more broadly.

A performance based model would compromise two domains:

1. The proportion of time medical students spend in rural and remote locations during their medical education (consistent with the recently collected data), and
2. The proportion of graduates who return to work in rural and remote settings within a specified period.

Such an approach would be equitable, and best aligned with the intent of the redistribution process to address the shortage of an appropriately trained medical workforce for rural and remote communities across Australia.

In addition, we would highlight that none of the options outlined in the discussion paper addresses an area of critical importance for the rural and remote medical workforce, which is increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. We propose that this should be considered as a critical issue in the redistribution model and suggest that this be considered a third domain in a performance based allocation model. This could be quantified by institutional data on the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical graduates and also reference some type of quantification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health content in the medical school curriculum.

**INSPIRING
ACHIEVEMENT**

I would be pleased to discuss our feedback with the Department at any stage. Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Craig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Professor Jonathan Craig
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