



Supplementary questions for witnesses – Thursday 12 December 2024

The implementation of PC2 recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities

Healthy North Coast

1. Can you comment on whether the number of GP training positions in your regions has increased in the last two years since the PC2 report? (**Recommendation 14**)

Improvements in the allocation and uptake of GP training positions has been evident in the last 2 years since the PC2 Report recommendations were made in mid 2022. Both national and state reports have shown an increased number of junior doctors have accepted specialist training positions. Although local PHN data comparing annual intake, placement type and location is unavailable, the latest national RACGP report shows that 1504 junior doctors have accepted specialist training for 2025 through the Federal Government-funded AGPT Program. This is a 19.8% increase on the 2024 intake. 56% of these GP trainees will participate in pathways outside of major metropolitan areas, and 39% of all trainees are on rural training pathways.

There has been significantly more focus in placing GP training positions in priority areas of workforce need. North Coast PHN has been closely involved with this workforce prioritisation placement program and has assisted in identifying specific areas and regions of need that have a low current medical workforce supply, a high demand for care and have matched this with locations having sufficient training supervisor capacity to support GP training. This has directly resulted in optimisation of the allocation of GP training positions (new and existing) across the North Coast PHN region since participation in the program commenced in 2023. Collaborative engagement strategies to support the GP trainees in our region have included career events, joint education offerings for GP trainees, registrar networking events as well as medical student engagement. The PHN continues to work closely with accredited medical colleges, local health districts and tertiary partners to promote and support GP training across our region.

In addition, NSW Health announced 15 additional GP training positions in 2024 and in 2025, with incentives and supports to recruit staff across rural and regional NSW. Across our region, 5 GP training positions have been supported through the NSW Health Single Employer Model since the PC2 report.