

# 2007 Commencing Medical Students Questionnaire

## National Data Report

May 2010

Prepared by Jonathan P. Gerber & Katie DeLoyde



## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1.0 Introduction                               | 4  |
| 2.0 Method                                     | 4  |
| 2.1 Questionnaire                              | 4  |
| 2.2 Analysis                                   | 4  |
| 3.0 Results                                    | 5  |
| 3.1 Students' characteristics                  | 5  |
| 3.2 Admission/Entry Scheme                     | 6  |
| 3.3 Participants Background and Place of Birth | 8  |
| 3.4 Rural/Urban Background                     | 13 |
| 3.5 Previous Higher Education                  | 16 |
| 3.6 Marital Status and Dependents              | 17 |
| 3.7 Location of Future Medical Practice        | 19 |
| 3.8 Preferred medical practice                 | 23 |

## List of Tables

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 1. Number of respondents in each group   | 5  |
| Table 2. Gender of respondents   | 6  |
| Table 3. Age range of respondents  | 6  |
| Table 4. Entry scheme indicated by respondents   | 7  |
| Table 5. Source of scholarship indicated by respondents  | 7  |
| Table 6. Indigenous status of respondents  | 8  |
| Table 7. Citizenship of respondents  | 8  |
| Table 8. State of birth within Australia   | 9  |
| Table 9. Overseas place of birth for Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents                              | 10 |
| Table 10. Overseas place of birth for respondents holding temporary or 'other' entry permits   | 11 |
| Table 11. Language spoken by respondents other than English  | 11 |
| Table 12. Most frequently spoken languages other than English  | 12 |
| Table 13. Most frequently spoken languages other than English for Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents | 13 |
| Table 14. Location of longest residency within Australia   | 14 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 15. Self-perception of rural background-----   | 14 |
| Table 16. Cross tabulation of self-perception of rural background and classification of location<br>lived in the longest-----        | 15 |
| Table 17. Location of secondary school -----   | 15 |
| Table 18. Discipline within which previous HIGHEST qualification was completed-----  | 16 |
| Table 19. Category of HIGHEST qualification -----  | 16 |
| Table 20. Occupation of respondents' partner-----  | 17 |
| Table 21. Number of children reported by respondents -----   | 18 |
| Table 22. Number of dependents reported by respondents-----  | 18 |
| Table 23. Source of income reported by respondents -----   | 19 |
| Table 24. Preferred location of future practice-----   | 20 |
| Table 25. Preferred geographical location of future practice-----  | 20 |
| Table 26. Cross tabulation of self-perception of rural background and preferred location for<br>future practice -----                | 21 |
| Table 27. Preferred overseas country of practice for temporary permit holders -----  | 22 |
| Table 28. Preferred overseas country of practice for Australian and New Zealand citizens and<br>Australian permanent residents ----- | 22 |
| Table 29. Preferred area of practice for respondents -----   | 23 |
| Table 30. Respondent's interest in Medical teaching-----   | 24 |
| Table 31. Respondent's interest in research -----  | 24 |

## 1.0 Introduction

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database and Longitudinal Tracking Project (MSOD) is an on-going longitudinal study that is conducted by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand. The project has been operating since 2005 and is the Australian Government's main data collection tool for medical student information. Data is collected directly from students at entry to medical school (Commencing Medical Students Questionnaire [CMSQ]); in the final year of medical school (Exit Questionnaire [EQ]); and one year after completion of their medical studies (PGY1). Information on student placements and electives is collected directly from medical schools throughout the duration of the program. In coming years data will also be collected at three and five years after completion of medical studies. This report presents summary data from the 2007 CMSQ. This was the second year for which all medical students in Australia were invited to participate in the MSOD.

## 2.0 Method

All entry level medical students at 17 Australian medical schools were invited to join the study. A list of these medical schools can be found in Appendix A. The MSOD identified and tracked 20 groups from within these medical schools (IMU [International Medical School, Malaysia] is considered a group for the purpose of this report). These groups are listed in Table 1.

Paper versions of the CMSQ's were distributed to students within the first month of commencing medical school. Once completed the questionnaires were returned to Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand and scanned at Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) located at the University of New South Wales. Data was fed back to Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand in SPSS 15.0 for analysis. One school (Australian National University) also gave students the option to complete the survey electronically via the internet.

### 2.1 Questionnaire

The 17 item (26 question) CMSQ gathers student information about basic demographic details, enrolment characteristics, previous tertiary education and plans for future practice. The majority of the questions are quantitative, with three qualitative questions (relating to scholarship source, previous university qualification and partner occupation) which have been grouped into themes. The CMSQ has been on-going since 2005 with only minor changes to the questionnaire format. A link to the 2007 CMSQ can be found in Appendix B.

### 2.2 Analysis

The data for this report is largely reported as frequency tables and, where possible, follows the format previously agreed by participating medical schools and endorsed by the MSOD Management Committee for predefined reports. Some questions have changed slightly and

therefore parts of the report covering these sections will be slightly different from previous versions.

The overall response rate for the 2007 CMSQ was 90%. The population therefore consisted of 2697 individuals enrolled at 17 Australian medical schools for which usable data was available. Some cell samples with a value of five or less have been suppressed for confidentiality reasons (indicated by x). All percentages are rounded to one decimal place, except total percentages which are rounded to the whole number.

## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Students' characteristics

Table 1 shows the number of respondents enrolled in each group. Of these groups nine were graduate-entry programs, responsible for training 44% of the responding students.

**Table 1. Number of respondents in each group**

| <b>Group</b>                                    | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Australian National University (Graduate)       | 70               | 2.6               |
| Bond University (Undergraduate)                 | 84               | 3.1               |
| Flinders University (Graduate)                  | 117              | 4.3               |
| Griffith University (Graduate)                  | 126              | 4.7               |
| James Cook University (Undergraduate)           | 103              | 3.8               |
| Monash University (Undergraduate)               | 285              | 10.6              |
| University of Adelaide (Undergraduate)          | 131              | 4.9               |
| University of Melbourne (Undergraduate)         | 226              | 8.4               |
| University of Melbourne (Undergraduate) IMU     | 12               | 0.4               |
| University of Melbourne (Graduate)              | 85               | 3.2               |
| University of Newcastle (Undergraduate)         | 93               | 3.4               |
| University of New South Wales (Undergraduate)   | 235              | 8.7               |
| University of Notre Dame (Fremantle [Graduate]) | 77               | 2.9               |
| University of Queensland (Graduate)             | 345              | 12.8              |
| University of Sydney (Graduate)                 | 257              | 9.5               |
| University of Tasmania (Undergraduate)          | 117              | 4.3               |
| University of Western Australia (Undergraduate) | 128              | 4.7               |
| University of Western Australia (Graduate)      | 42               | 1.6               |
| University of Western Sydney (Undergraduate)    | 96               | 3.6               |
| University of Wollongong (Graduate)             | 68               | 2.5               |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>2697</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Consistent with results from previous CMSQ's approximately 54% of respondents were female (Table 2 below).

**Table 2. Gender of respondents**

| <b>Gender</b>          | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Male                   | 1230             | 45.7              |
| Female                 | 1461             | 54.3              |
| <b>Total responses</b> | <b>2691</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                | 6                |                   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Respondent ages were grouped into 5-year age ranges and are presented in Table 3. Eighty four percent of the sample was under the age of 25. Among the respondents commencing undergraduate-entry programs 96% were under the age of 25, compared with 69% of those in graduate-entry programs. The mean age was 21 years old (Standard Deviation=4.9).

**Table 3. Age range of respondents**

| <b>Age Group</b>       | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <20 years              | 1252             | 46.5              |
| 20-24 years            | 1015             | 37.7              |
| 25-29 years            | 278              | 10.3              |
| 30-34 years            | 92               | 3.4               |
| 35-39 years            | 28               | 1.0               |
| 40 years and over      | 28               | 1.0               |
| <b>Total responses</b> | <b>2693</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                | 4                |                   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

### 3.2 Admission/Entry Scheme

The majority of respondents (53%) were attending medical school under the Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) scheme (Table 4). Rural scheme students (including Commonwealth Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship students and scholarships provided by the Queensland or South Australia health departments) totaled 5%. Twenty four percent of students paid full fees,

including both International Fee Paying (IFP) students and Australian Full-Fee Paying (FFP) students.

**Table 4. Entry scheme indicated by respondents**

| <b>Entry Scheme</b>                           | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP)            | 1400             | 52.6              |
| Commonwealth Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship | 91               | 3.4               |
| Commonwealth Bonded Medical Places Scheme     | 472              | 17.7              |
| State Health Bonded Medical Scholarship       | 51               | 1.9               |
| Commonwealth Department of Defence Sponsored  | x                | x                 |
| Australian Full-Fee Paying                    | 244              | 9.2               |
| International Fee Paying                      | 389              | 14.6              |
| University funded student                     | x                | x                 |
| <b>Total responses</b>                        | <b>2660</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                                       | 37               |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

The majority of respondents (85%) were not in receipt of a scholarship when they commenced medical studies\*. For those who were, the sources indicated by students are summarised in Table 5 below. These sources included those provided by the Commonwealth Government, by State Governments, by governments outside Australia, by Australian universities and by other institutions.

**Table 5. Source of scholarship indicated by respondents**

| <b>Scholarship Source</b>                                       | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Australian Commonwealth scholarships**                          | 113              | 28.6              |
| Australian state scholarships                                   | 60               | 15.2              |
| Scholarships provided by Australian universities                | 100              | 25.3              |
| Scholarships provided by home country to international students | 114              | 28.9              |
| Scholarships provided by other institutions                     | 7                | 1.8               |
| Unnamed   | 1                | 0.3               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>395</b>       | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: Respondents who indicated scholarship source (n=395)*

\* RAMUS and John Flynn scholarship outcomes are generally not known at this stage. The information for both these scholarships is collected via the medical schools data collection.

\*\* Including MRBS, RAMUS and Defence

### 3.3 Participants Background and Place of Birth

Just over 1% of respondents identified themselves as having Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent (Table 6 below).

**Table 6. Indigenous status of respondents**

| <b>Indigenous Status</b>                            | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Neither Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin | 2649             | 98.7              |
| Aboriginal origin                                   | 28               | 1.0               |
| Torres Strait Islander origin                       | x                | x                 |
| Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin   | x                | x                 |
| <b>Total responses</b>                              | <b>2683</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing   | 14               |                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Eighty three percent of respondents were either Australian or New Zealand citizens, or Australian permanent residents. The remainder of respondents held a temporary entry permit or indicated 'other' status (Table 7).

**Table 7. Citizenship of respondents**

| <b>Citizenship Status</b>            | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Australian citizen                   | 2180             | 81.2              |
| New Zealand citizen                  | 50               | 1.9               |
| Australian permanent resident status | 57               | 2.1               |
| Temporary entry permit               | 388              | 14.5              |
| Status other than one of the above   | 10               | 0.4               |
| <b>Total responses</b>               | <b>2685</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                              | 12               |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Sixty one percent of all respondents reported being born within Australia. A breakdown of states of birth for these respondents is presented in Table 8. Of these Australian born respondents, 33% were born in NSW, followed by Victoria (23%) and Queensland (21%).

**Table 8. State of birth within Australia**

| <b>State</b>                 | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| NSW                          | 547              | 33.4              |
| Victoria                     | 373              | 22.8              |
| Queensland                   | 346              | 21.1              |
| South Australia              | 131              | 8.0               |
| Western Australia            | 123              | 7.5               |
| Tasmania                     | 54               | 3.3               |
| Northern Territory           | 20               | 1.2               |
| ACT                          | 43               | 2.6               |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>1637</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Country other than Australia | 1054             |                   |
| Missing                      | 6                |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Tables 9 and 10 report the most frequent country of birth for those respondents who reported an overseas birth. The distribution of birth place differed between citizenship categories; among Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents (Table 9), the most frequent place of birth was India (12%) followed by China (10%). For those holding temporary or 'other' entry permits (Table 10), Malaysia was most frequently reported (32%), followed by Singapore (19%) and Canada (18%).

**Table 9. Overseas place of birth for Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents**

| <b>Country of Birth</b>      | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| India                        | 77               | 12.0           |
| China*                       | 66               | 10.3           |
| Hong Kong (SAR of China)     | 42               | 6.5            |
| Malaysia                     | 36               | 5.6            |
| Sri Lanka                    | 35               | 5.5            |
| England                      | 31               | 4.8            |
| South Africa                 | 30               | 4.7            |
| New Zealand                  | 27               | 4.2            |
| United States of America     | 27               | 4.2            |
| Singapore                    | 23               | 3.6            |
| Taiwan                       | 17               | 2.6            |
| Korea, Republic of (South)   | 15               | 2.3            |
| United Kingdom, nfd**        | 11               | 1.7            |
| Canada                       | 10               | 1.6            |
| Philippines                  | 10               | 1.6            |
| All other (where total n<10) | 185              | 28.8           |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>642</b>       | <b>100</b>     |
| Missing                      | 7                |                |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>649</b>       |                |

*Base: Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents reporting overseas birth (n=649)*

\*Excludes SARs and Taiwan Province

\*\* (not further defined)

**Table 10. Overseas place of birth for respondents holding temporary or 'other' entry permits**

| <b>Country of Birth</b>      | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Malaysia                     | 126              | 32.1              |
| Singapore                    | 73               | 18.6              |
| Canada                       | 69               | 17.6              |
| Korea, Republic of (South)   | 13               | 3.3               |
| United States of America     | 12               | 3.1               |
| Brunei Darussalam            | 11               | 2.8               |
| Hong Kong (SAR of China)     | 11               | 2.8               |
| Botswana                     | 10               | 2.6               |
| All other (where total n<10) | 67               | 17.1              |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>392</b>       | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                      | 4                |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>396</b>       |                   |

*Base: Holders of temporary or 'other' entry permits who reported overseas birth (n=396)*

N.B. 9 respondents who indicated they were born overseas did not state their citizenship (Table 7).

One third (33%) of respondents spoke a language other than English at their permanent home address (Table 11). Individuals who held a temporary visa were more likely to report speaking a language other than English at home (74%), compared with Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents born overseas (59%), and all Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents, regardless of place of birth (26%).

**Table 11. Language spoken by respondents other than English**

| <b>Language Spoken other than English</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| No  | 1801             | 67.0              |
| Yes                                       | 888              | 33.0              |
| <b>Total responses</b>                    | <b>2689</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                                   | 8                |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Table 12 shows the most frequently reported languages among respondents who reported speaking a language other than English at home. The most frequently reported was Mandarin (21%), followed by Cantonese (13%) and Malay (8%).

**Table 12. Most frequently spoken languages other than English**

| <b>Language</b>              | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mandarin                     | 180              | 20.8              |
| Cantonese                    | 109              | 12.6              |
| Malay                        | 67               | 7.7               |
| Tamil                        | 58               | 6.7               |
| Vietnamese                   | 40               | 4.6               |
| Chinese, nec                 | 31               | 3.6               |
| Hindi                        | 31               | 3.6               |
| Korean                       | 31               | 3.6               |
| Arabic                       | 22               | 2.5               |
| Sinhalese                    | 16               | 1.8               |
| Bengali                      | 15               | 1.7               |
| Hokkien                      | 14               | 1.6               |
| Punjabi                      | 13               | 1.5               |
| Indonesian                   | 12               | 1.4               |
| Gujarati                     | 11               | 1.3               |
| Telugu                       | 11               | 1.3               |
| All other (where total n≤10) | 206              | 23.8              |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>867</b>       | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                      | 21               |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>888</b>       |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals who reported speaking a language other than English (n=888)*

Table 13 is limited to those respondents who are Australian or New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents who reported speaking a language other than English at home. Again Mandarin was the most frequently reported (17%), followed again by Cantonese (15%), and Tamil (9%).

**Table 13. Most frequently spoken languages other than English for Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents**

| <b>Language</b>              | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mandarin                     | 94               | 16.5              |
| Cantonese                    | 87               | 15.2              |
| Tamil                        | 51               | 8.9               |
| Vietnamese                   | 38               | 6.7               |
| Hindi                        | 31               | 5.4               |
| Arabic                       | 16               | 2.8               |
| Korean                       | 16               | 2.8               |
| Sinhalese                    | 15               | 2.6               |
| Bengali                      | 14               | 2.5               |
| Gujarati                     | 10               | 1.8               |
| Punjabi                      | 10               | 1.8               |
| Telugu                       | 10               | 1.8               |
| All other (where total n<10) | 179              | 31.3              |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>571</b>       | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                      | 21               |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>592</b>       |                   |

*Base: Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents who reported speaking a language other than English (n=592)*

### 3.4 Rural/Urban Background

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of geographical location they had lived in the longest within Australia (Table 14). Just under two-thirds of respondents (60%) reported they had lived in a capital city or major urban centre the longest. A further 9% had lived mainly in a regional city, while 11% reported living mainly in either a small town or small community. Eleven percent had lived in Australia for less than a year.

**Table 14. Location of longest residency within Australia**

| <b>Location within Australia</b>                | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Capital city                                    | 1551             | 60.4              |
| Major urban centre (>100,000)                   | 218              | 8.5               |
| Regional city or large town (25,000-100,000)    | 236              | 9.2               |
| Smaller town (10,000-24,999)                    | 111              | 4.3               |
| Small community (<10,000)                       | 162              | 6.3               |
| N/A, lived in Australia for less than 12 months | 290              | 11.3              |
| <b>Total responses</b>                          | <b>2568</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing   | 129              |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Just over one fifth (22%) of all respondents perceive themselves to be from a rural background (Table 15).

**Table 15. Self-perception of rural background**

| <b>Self-perception of Rural Background</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Yes, from rural origin                     | 549              | 21.6              |
| No rural origin                            | 1992             | 78.4              |
| <b>Total responses</b>                     | <b>2541</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                                    | 156              |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Rural perception corresponded well with the type of location an individual had lived in the longest. As seen in Table 16 the majority of Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents who had spent most of their time in a capital city or major urban centre did not consider themselves to be rural (95%). This pattern was reversed for those from smaller towns. The overall pattern of increased rural perception with decreasing urban centre size was significant ( $\chi^2 [12, 2116] = 1428.26, p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 16. Cross tabulation of self-perception of rural background and classification of location lived in the longest**

| Location Lived in the Longest by Respondents | Self-perception |             |             |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Yes             | No          | Total       |
| Capital city (frequency)                     | 57              | 1370        | <b>1427</b> |
| <i>% within location</i>                     | 11.7            | 84.2        |             |
| Major urban centre (frequency)               | 26              | 176         | <b>202</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                     | 5.3             | 10.8        |             |
| Regional city (frequency)                    | 158             | 64          | <b>222</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                     | 32.3            | 3.9         |             |
| Smaller town (frequency)                     | 98              | 9           | <b>107</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                     | 20.0            | 0.6         |             |
| Smaller community (frequency)                | 150             | 8           | <b>158</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                     | 30.7            | 0.5         |             |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>489</b>      | <b>1627</b> | <b>2116</b> |
| <b>Total percent</b>                         | <b>100</b>      | <b>100</b>  |             |

*Base: All Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents stating their location and rating their rural background (n=2116)*

Respondents were asked to state the name and postcode of the school where they spent their final year of secondary education. This information was used to indicate state of secondary school. Table 17 shows that the majority (38%) of respondents indicated that they had attended secondary school in Queensland, followed by NSW (26%) and Victoria (18%).

**Table 17. Location of secondary school**

| State                        | Frequency   | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| New South Wales              | 693         | 32.0       |
| Victoria                     | 481         | 22.2       |
| Queensland                   | 502         | 23.2       |
| Western Australia            | 173         | 8.0        |
| South Australia              | 150         | 6.9        |
| Tasmania                     | 82          | 3.8        |
| Australian Capital Territory | 60          | 2.8        |
| Northern territory           | 22          | 1.0        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>2163</b> | <b>100</b> |

*Base: All individuals who reported attending an Australian secondary school (n=2163)*

### 3.5 Previous Higher Education

Just under half (48%) of individuals reported having previously completed at least one university qualification. As expected, almost all respondents in graduate-entry programs reported a previous university qualification (99.8%). Eight percent of those enrolled in undergraduate-entry programs also reported at least one former university qualification.

Table 18 illustrates the discipline in which the highest qualification was completed by respondents who held a previous university qualification. Forty one percent of respondents' highest qualification was in science, followed by medical science (23%) and health/allied health (17%).

**Table 18. Discipline within which previous HIGHEST qualification was completed**

| <b>Discipline</b>     | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Science               | 537              | 41.2              |
| Medical Science       | 304              | 23.3              |
| Health/Allied Health  | 226              | 17.4              |
| Humanities            | 71               | 5.5               |
| Commerce/Business/Law | 74               | 5.7               |
| Physical Sciences     | 34               | 2.6               |
| Other/Unknown         | 56               | 4.3               |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1302</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: All individuals who reported previous qualifications (n=1302)*

For those respondents who reported a previous university qualification, the category of their highest qualification is presented in Table 19. Almost three-quarters of respondents' (73%) highest qualification was a bachelor degree, while 18% held either an honours degree or a postgraduate diploma/certificate. Seven percent held a master's degree and 2% of respondents held a PhD.

**Table 19. Category of HIGHEST qualification**

| <b>Highest Qualification</b>  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Bachelor                      | 952              | 73.1              |
| Honours                       | 190              | 14.6              |
| Graduate Diploma/ Certificate | 49               | 3.8               |
| Master's                      | 85               | 6.5               |
| PhD                           | 25               | 1.9               |
| Other/Unknown                 | 1                | 0.1               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1302</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: All individuals who reported previous qualifications (n=1302)*

### 3.6 Marital Status and Dependents

The majority of respondents were *single* (91%). Eight percent reported being *married or living with partner* and 9 respondents (0.3%) reported being *divorced or separated*.

Respondents were asked to state the occupation of their partner (if applicable). These answers were grouped into 14 major categories\* which are presented in Table 20. The respondents reported a range of partner occupations: the majority (29%) reported their partners' occupation to be *non health professional*; followed by *student* (17%); followed by *other health professional* (12%).

**Table 20. Occupation of respondents' partner**

| <b>Partner Occupation</b>       | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Medical practitioners           | 7                | 3.7               |
| Other health professional       | 23               | 12.1              |
| Non health professional         | 55               | 28.9              |
| Managers                        | 13               | 6.8               |
| Self-employed                   | 6                | 3.2               |
| Technicians and trades workers  | 16               | 8.4               |
| Community service workers       | 14               | 7.4               |
| Clerical                        | 9                | 4.7               |
| Sales Workers                   | x                | x                 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | x                | x                 |
| Labourers                       | x                | x                 |
| Student                         | 32               | 16.8              |
| Unemployed outside home         | x                | x                 |
| Other                           | 6                | 3.2               |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>190</b>       | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: Individuals who reported partner occupation (n=190)*

*\*Occupation categories based on:*

*ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard class of occupations, First edition (cat.no.1220.0), revision 1*

*"Career decision making by postgraduate doctors" AMWAC, Dec 2005*

The number of respondents with children under the age of 16 is shown in Table 21. Ninety eight percent of individuals reported having no children, while 2% reported having one or two children, and 0.6% reported having three or more.

Similarly 99% of respondents reported having no dependents (people who are financially dependent on them excluding children under the age of 16 [Table 22]). Those respondents who reported having either or both children and dependents were almost exclusively Australian

citizens or Australian permanent residents (99% of those with children and 86% of those with other dependents).

**Table 21. Number of children reported by respondents**

| <b>Number of Children</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 0                         | 2629             | 97.5              |
| 1                         | 26               | 1.0               |
| 2                         | 24               | 0.9               |
| 3 or more                 | 17               | 0.6               |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>2696</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                   | 1                |                   |
| <b>Total responses</b>    | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

**Table 22. Number of dependents reported by respondents**

| <b>Number of Dependents</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 0                           | 2661             | 98.7              |
| 1                           | 17               | 0.6               |
| 2 or more                   | 18               | 0.7               |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>2696</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing                     | 1                |                   |
| <b>Total responses</b>      | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Respondents were asked to indicate their source of income for education and/or living expenses (Table 23). As this is a multiple response question (respondents could mark all answers that were relevant) the percentages in the table do not add to 100%. Table 23 shows there were some differences between those enrolled in undergraduate-entry and graduate-entry programs. Government assistance was reported far more commonly for those in graduate-entry programs than those in undergraduate-entry programs (39% and 14% respectively), as was paid employment (42% and 23% respectively). However those respondents in undergraduate-entry programs were more likely to report being supported by parents, partners or other family members, than those in graduate-entry programs (73% and 47% respectively). More undergraduate-entry students reported holding scholarships compared with graduate-entry students (18% and 10% respectively).

**Table 23. Source of income reported by respondents**

| Source of Income                | Undergraduate-entry |      | Graduate-entry |      |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|
|                                 | Frequency           | %    | Frequency      | %    |
| Government assistance           | 213                 | 14.1 | 458            | 38.6 |
| Parents/other family            | 1104                | 73.1 | 560            | 47.2 |
| Paid employment                 | 353                 | 23.4 | 499            | 42.0 |
| Scholarship                     | 272                 | 18.0 | 115            | 9.7  |
| HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan           | x                   | x    | 0              | 0.0  |
| Savings/trust fund              | 52                  | 3.4  | 135            | 11.4 |
| Personal loan                   | x                   | x    | 25             | 2.1  |
| Other                           | 8                   | 0.5  | 29             | 2.4  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>2005</b>         |      | <b>1821</b>    |      |
| <b>Total number of students</b> | <b>1510</b>         |      | <b>1187</b>    |      |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697), N.B. Multiple response question.*

### 3.7 Location of Future Medical Practice

Table 24 shows respondents' preferences for location of practice on completion of their basic medical degree. Eighty seven percent of those responding to this question reported that they would prefer to practice within Australia. When preferences for only Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australia permanent residents were examined, 95% reported that their first preference for location of future practice was within Australia. For those on temporary entry permits, 43% reported that they would prefer to practice within Australia. The preferred states within Australia for all respondents were NSW (30%) and Victoria (23%).

**Table 24. Preferred location of future practice**

| <b>Preferred Location</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| NSW                       | 770              | 30.1              |
| Victoria                  | 579              | 22.7              |
| Queensland                | 457              | 17.9              |
| South Australia           | 139              | 5.4               |
| Western Australia         | 161              | 6.3               |
| Tasmania                  | 55               | 2.2               |
| Northern Territory        | 32               | 1.3               |
| ACT                       | 24               | 0.9               |
| Overseas                  | 339              | 13.3              |
| <b>Total responses</b>    | <b>2556</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| <i>Missing</i>            | 141              |                   |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

Capital cities were the most preferred geographical location for future practice within Australia (54%). The percentage of individuals reporting a particular location decreased as the population of the centre decreased, with just 4% preferring smaller towns and 3% small communities (Table 25).

**Table 25. Preferred geographical location of future practice**

| <b>Location within Australia</b>                | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Capital city                                    | 1335             | 54.0              |
| Major urban centre (>100,000)                   | 296              | 12.0              |
| Regional city or large town (25,000-100,000)    | 325              | 13.1              |
| Smaller town (10,000-24,999)                    | 109              | 4.4               |
| Small community (<10,000)                       | 68               | 2.8               |
| N/A, lived in Australia for less than 12 months | 339              | 13.7              |
| <b>Total responses</b>                          | <b>2472</b>      | <b>100</b>        |
| Missing   | 225              |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>2697</b>      |                   |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

The preference for a particular location was significantly influenced by past exposure to that location. As presented in Table 26, 74% of those who did not consider themselves as coming from a rural background reported that they would prefer to practice in a capital city. Those perceiving their background as rural were significantly more likely to consider increasingly rural locations as a preferred option for future practice ( $\chi^2 [12, 2057] = 713.07, p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 26. Cross tabulation of self-perception of rural background and preferred location for future practice**

| Preferred Location of Future Practice   | Self-perception |             |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | Yes             | No          | Total       |
| Capital city (frequency)                | 100             | 1184        | <b>1284</b> |
| <i>% within location</i>                | 22.3            | 73.6        |             |
| Major urban centre (frequency)          | 60              | 221         | <b>281</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                | 13.4            | 13.7        |             |
| Regional city or large town (frequency) | 169             | 149         | <b>318</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                | 37.7            | 9.3         |             |
| Smaller town (frequency)                | 70              | 36          | <b>106</b>  |
| <i>% within location</i>                | 15.6            | 2.2         |             |
| Small community (frequency)             | 49              | 19          | <b>68</b>   |
| <i>% within location</i>                | 10.9            | 1.2         |             |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>448</b>      | <b>1609</b> | <b>2057</b> |
| <b>Total %</b>                          | <b>100</b>      | <b>100</b>  |             |

*Base: All surveyed individuals nominating a preferred location and rating their rural background (n=2057)*

Fourteen percent of all individuals indicated that they would prefer to practice overseas (n=339 [Table 25]). Table 27 shows the preferred overseas country indicated by temporary permit holders whose first preference is to practice overseas. The most frequently reported country was Malaysia (36%), followed by Canada (25%) and Singapore (17%).

Table 28 shows the preferred location reported by Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents whose first preference is to practice overseas. Respondents most frequently reported England and the USA (both 16%).

**Table 27. Preferred overseas country of practice for temporary permit holders**

| <b>Country</b>               | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Malaysia                     | 80               | 36.2           |
| Canada                       | 55               | 24.9           |
| Singapore                    | 38               | 17.2           |
| United States of America     | 13               | 5.9            |
| Brunei Darussalam            | 10               | 4.5            |
| All other (where total n<10) | 25               | 11.3           |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>221</b>       | <b>100</b>     |
| Missing                      | 1                |                |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>222</b>       |                |

*Base: Temporary permit holders who preferred to practice overseas (n=222)*

**Table 28. Preferred overseas country of practice for Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents**

| <b>Country</b>              | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| England                     | 18               | 16.4           |
| United States of America    | 17               | 15.5           |
| New Zealand                 | 9                | 8.2            |
| United Kingdom, nfd*        | 7                | 6.4            |
| All other (where total n≤5) | 59               | 53.6           |
| <b>Total responses</b>      | <b>110</b>       | <b>100</b>     |
| Missing                     | 1                |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>111</b>       |                |

*Base: Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents who preferred to practice overseas (n=111)*

*\*nfd (not further defined)*

N.B. 6 respondents who reported they preferred to practice overseas did not state their citizenship (Table 7).

### 3.8 Preferred medical practice

Table 29 shows the area of future medical practice respondents would like to pursue. The majority (32%) of respondents indicated they had not yet decided which area they would like to pursue. Surgery was the most frequently reported area (19%), followed by paediatrics/child health (11%) and general practice (11%). More male than female respondents selected surgery as their first preference (26% compared to 14%), while more females than males selected paediatrics/child health (14% compared with 7%). The leading choices for males were surgery (26%), followed by general practice (10%). The leading choices for females were paediatrics/child health (14%) and surgery (14%), followed by general practice (11%).

**Table 29. Preferred area of practice for respondents**

| Area of Medicine                 | Male        |            | Female      |            | Total       |            |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|                                  | n           | %          | n           | %          | n           | %          |
| Adult medicine/Internal medicine | 69          | 5.8        | 59          | 4.2        | 128         | 4.9        |
| Anaesthesia                      | 23          | 1.9        | 26          | 1.9        | 49          | 1.9        |
| Dermatology                      | 16          | 1.4        | 27          | 1.9        | 43          | 1.7        |
| Emergency medicine               | 56          | 4.7        | 59          | 4.2        | 115         | 4.4        |
| General practice                 | 117         | 9.9        | 155         | 11.1       | 272         | 10.5       |
| Intensive care medicine          | 12          | 1.0        | 12          | 0.9        | 24          | 0.9        |
| Medical administration           | x           | x          | x           | x          | 9           | 0.3        |
| Non-specialist hospital practice | x           | x          | x           | x          | x           | x          |
| Obstetrics and gynaecology       | 9           | 0.8        | 92          | 6.6        | 101         | 3.9        |
| Ophthalmology                    | 25          | 2.1        | 18          | 1.3        | 44          | 1.7        |
| Paediatrics and child health     | 86          | 7.3        | 200         | 14.3       | 286         | 11.0       |
| Pathology                        | 11          | 0.9        | 25          | 1.8        | 36          | 1.4        |
| Psychiatry                       | 30          | 2.5        | 44          | 3.1        | 74          | 2.9        |
| Public health medicine           | 6           | 0.5        | 15          | 1.1        | 21          | 0.8        |
| Radiology                        | 22          | 1.9        | 10          | 0.7        | 32          | 1.2        |
| Rehabilitation medicine          | x           | x          | x           | x          | 10          | 0.4        |
| Rural and remote medicine        | x           | x          | x           | x          | x           | x          |
| Surgery                          | 308         | 26.0       | 192         | 13.7       | 501         | 19.3       |
| Other                            | 10          | 0.8        | 5           | 0.4        | 15          | 0.6        |
| Not yet decided                  | 367         | 31.0       | 454         | 32.4       | 823         | 31.8       |
| <b>Total responses</b>           | <b>1184</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>1402</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>2591</b> | <b>100</b> |
| Missing                          | 46          |            | 59          |            | 106         |            |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>1230</b> |            | <b>1461</b> |            | <b>2697</b> |            |

Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)

N.B. 6 respondents did not state their gender (Table 2)

When respondents were asked if they were interested in becoming involved with medical teaching 51% of respondents said that they would be interested (Table 30). When asked if they were interested in becoming involved in research 43% of respondents said that they would be interested (Table 31).

**Table 30. Respondent's interest in Medical teaching**

| <b>Interest in Medical Teaching</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No/blank                            | 1312             | 48.6              |
| Yes                                 | 1385             | 51.4              |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>2697</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

**Table 31. Respondent's interest in research**

| <b>Interest in Research</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percentage</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No/blank                    | 1533             | 56.8              |
| Yes                         | 1164             | 43.2              |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>2697</b>      | <b>100</b>        |

*Base: All surveyed individuals (n=2697)*

## Appendix

### Appendix A

List of Australian medical schools:

---

The University of Adelaide  
Australian National University  
Bond University  
Flinders University  
Griffith University  
James Cook University  
The University of Melbourne  
Monash University  
The University of Newcastle/The University of New England  
The University of New South Wales  
The University of Notre Dame  
The University of Queensland  
The University of Sydney  
The University of Tasmania  
The University of Western Australia  
The University of Western Sydney  
The University of Wollongong

---

### Appendix B

Link to the 2007 CMSQ:

[http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/MSOD\\_Webpages\\_05\\_08/2007\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/MSOD_Webpages_05_08/2007_questionnaire.pdf)

