

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2015

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MSOD data from 2010
to 2014 graduating
medical students

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From 2010 to 2014, the Medical Students Outcome Database Survey (MSOD), now called the Medical Students Workforce Survey (MSWS), has captured the details (i.e. demographics, career intentions, rurality, satisfaction etc.) of graduating medical students from all 19 medical schools across Australia. These “exit” surveys have achieved very high response rates, with 82.4% of all graduating students¹ participating in this survey in their final year of medical school. This makes the MSWS an extremely powerful tool predictive tool for medical workforce development and planning. The breakdown of respondent numbers by Medical School can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of respondents by School of completion and year 2010 to 2014

School of completion	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014 ²	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australian National University	73	3.7	55	2.1	79	2.8	53	1.8	100	4.0
Bond University	65	3.3	60	2.3	56	2.0	67	2.3	61	2.4
Deakin University	0	0	97	3.8	103	3.7	126	4.4	10	0.4
Flinders University	99	5.0	113	4.4	78	2.8	102	3.6	94	3.8
Griffith University	129	6.5	100	3.9	112	4.0	90	3.1	112	4.5
James Cook University	0	0	70	2.7	86	3.1	84	2.9	48	1.9
Monash University	249	12.5	250	9.8	316	11.2	321	11.2	230	9.2
The University of Adelaide	2	0.1	92	3.6	118	4.2	137	4.8	140	5.6
The University of Melbourne	270	13.6	288	11.2	292	10.4	293	10.2	221	8.8
The University of Newcastle / University of New England	97	4.9	77	3.0	157	5.6	160	5.6	118	4.7
The University of New South Wales	163	8.2	192	7.5	180	6.4	204	7.1	193	7.7
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	85	4.3	96	3.7	98	3.5	90	3.1	93	3.7
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	0	0	53	2.1	63	2.2	76	2.6	80	3.2
The University of Queensland	330	16.6	340	13.3	390	13.9	364	12.7	326	13.0
The University of Sydney	230	11.6	239	9.3	258	9.2	252	8.8	285	11.4
University of Tasmania	49	2.5	87	3.4	103	3.7	99	3.4	110	4.4
The University of Western Australia	84	4.2	196	7.7	166	5.9	199	6.9	93	3.7
University of Western Sydney	0	0	85	3.3	86	3.1	84	2.9	112	4.5
University of Wollongong	61	3.1	71	2.8	74	2.6	71	2.5	73	2.9
Total	1,986	100.0	2,561	100.0	2,815	100.0	2,872	100.0	2,499	100.0

¹ Average taken from graduating Domestic and International Students from Medical Deans Student Statistics from 2010 to 2013 (2014 still being collected) (<http://www.medicaldeans.org.au/statistics/annualtables/>)

² The decrease in numbers in 2014 may be attributable to a change in the survey follow-up strategy

The majority of graduates were 29 years old or younger, with those between 25 and 29 making up approximately 46% and those under 25 approximately 40% from each graduating year (Table 2). Those who were over 45 years old made up under 1% of each graduating year. The median graduating age of all years was 25, with the largest age range (i.e. the youngest student being 18, the oldest being 63) coming from the 2014 cohort (Table 3).

Table 2. Number of respondents by Age group and year 2010 to 2014

Age	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<25	738	37.2	1,028	40.4	1,150	40.9	1,191	41.7	1,003	40.5
25-29	924	46.5	1,150	45.2	1,299	46.2	1,312	45.9	1,118	45.1
30-34	214	10.8	248	9.7	251	8.9	218	7.6	243	9.8
35-39	75	3.8	63	2.5	63	2.2	79	2.8	71	2.9
40-44	19	1.0	33	1.3	28	1.0	34	1.2	26	1.0
45+	15	0.8	23	0.9	20	0.7	25	0.9	18	0.7
Total	1,985	100.0	2,545	100.0	2,811	100.0	2,859	100.0	2,479	100.0

Table 3. Median age and age range of respondents by year 2010 to 2014

Age	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Median	25	25	25	25	25
minimum	21	21	21	20	18
maximum	57	56	60	57	63

Apart from Australia (where more than 60% of graduating students were born), most students were born in Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, China, India, Hong Kong and South Korea (Table 4). Other countries that comprised the top 10 were New Zealand, Canada and England. The number of students born in New Zealand have slightly increased over the years, from 1.4% in 2010 to 2.5% in 2014. In most cases however, there have only been slight fluctuations of the proportions of birth country for graduating medical students from year to year.

Table 4. Country of birth by year for top 10 countries in 2014

Birth Country	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	935	60.1	1,350	62.3	1,521	60.3	1,646	63.4	1,539	62.8
Malaysia	117	7.5	107	4.9	136	5.4	109	4.2	129	5.3
Singapore	55	3.5	85	3.9	84	3.3	107	4.1	99	4.0
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	50	3.2	54	2.5	70	2.8	88	3.4	61	2.5
India	33	2.1	53	2.4	84	3.3	77	3.0	67	2.7
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	40	2.6	32	1.5	56	2.2	61	2.4	30	1.2
New Zealand	22	1.4	37	1.7	50	2.0	59	2.3	62	2.5
Canada	47	3.0	76	3.5	109	4.3	57	2.2	65	2.7
England	20	1.3	30	1.4	40	1.6	46	1.8	43	1.8
Korea, Republic of (South)	9	0.6	16	0.7	17	0.7	39	1.5	32	1.3
Other	228	14.7	328	15.1	357	14.1	306	11.8	325	13.3
Total	1,556	100.0	2,168	100.0	2,524	100.0	2,595	100.0	2,452	100.0

The number of graduates who were “not partnered” dropped significantly from 2010 (65.4%) to 2014 (51.7%). Conversely graduates who classified themselves as “partnered” increased from 2010 (34.6%) to 2014 (48.3%). It would be of interest to continue similar analysis of responses to the 2015 MSWS to see if this observable trend continues, and if partnered medical students become the majority proportion.

Table 5. Partner status by year 2010 to 2014³

Marital status	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Not partnered	1,299	65.4	1,506	59.2	1,614	57.6	1,500	52.6	1,285	51.7
Partnered	686	34.6	1,039	40.8	1,189	42.4	1,350	47.4	1,201	48.3
Total	1,985	100.0	2,545	100.0	2,803	100.0	2,850	100.0	2,486	100.0

³ Due to a change in the order of possible responses on the form, a number of respondents in 2013 chose 'In a relationship but not living with partner' when previously they may have chosen 'single'.

Nearly 76% of graduating domestic students reported living in capital cities in 2014, which was a substantial increase when compared to previous years (Table 6a). For example, in 2010 only 67.2% of graduating domestic students had reported living in capital cities. This may also be attributed also to the proportional decrease of those living in Major Urban Centres (11.5% to 7.9%) and Regional Cities or Large Towns (10.2% to 6.6%) from 2010 to 2014. Table 6b is a condensed (?) view of Table 6a, aggregating Capital city and Major urban centre into the variable “Urban” and Smaller town and Small community into the variable “Small town/community”. Approximately 80% of all domestic graduates from 2010 to 2014 who lived in Australia for more than one year lived in urban locations. Those from Regional cities or large towns ranged between 6.6% to 10.2% and those living in Small towns/communities between 9.7% and 13.0%. The raw numbers of these statistics are represented graphically through Graph 1a and proportionally by Graph 1b.

Table 6a. Rurality of main location for domestic students when living in Australia for more than one year by year 2010 to 2014

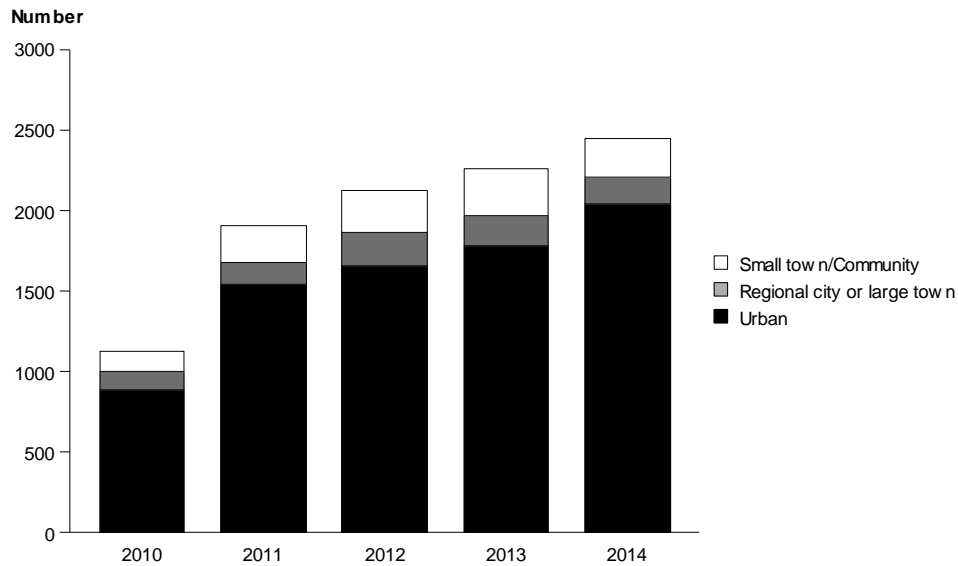
Main location rurality ⁴	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Capital city	757	67.2	1,351	70.8	1,481	69.6	1,582	70.0	1,852	75.8
Major urban centre	130	11.5	186	9.7	171	8.0	197	8.7	194	7.9
Regional city or large town	115	10.2	145	7.6	213	10.0	189	8.4	161	6.6
Smaller town	58	5.2	111	5.8	108	5.1	114	5.0	108	4.4
Small community	66	5.9	116	6.1	156	7.3	179	7.9	128	5.2
Total	1,126	100.0	1,909	100.0	2,129	100.0	2,261	100.0	2,443	100.0

Table 6b. Rurality of main location for domestic students when living in Australia for more than one year by year 2010 to 2014

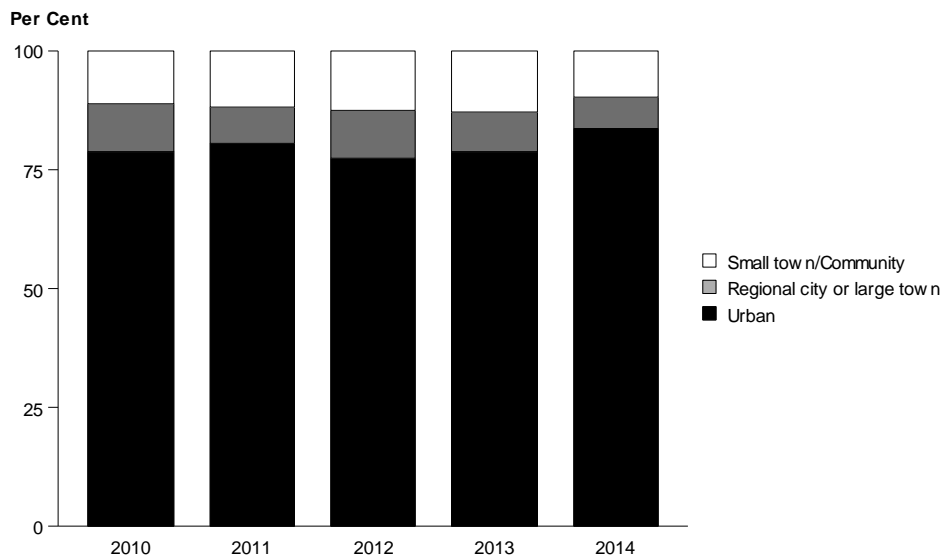
Main location rurality*	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Urban	887	78.8	1,537	80.5	1,652	77.6	1,779	78.7	2,046	83.7
Regional city or large town	115	10.2	145	7.6	213	10.0	189	8.4	161	6.6
Small town/Community	124	11.0	227	11.9	264	12.4	293	13.0	236	9.7
Total	1,126	100.0	1,909	100.0	2,129	100.0	2,261	100.0	2,443	100.0

⁴ These settings equate roughly RA 1 (Capital city) to RA 5 (Small community)

Graph 1a. Rurality of main location for domestic students when living in Australia for more than one year by year 2010 to 2014



Graph 1b. Rurality of main location for domestic students when living in Australia for more than one year by year 2010 to 2014



There were similar numbers across the two years that graduates were asked about sources of income for education and living expenses (Table 7). The top three reported income sources were Family (67.7% for 2013 and 2014), Government (59.6% for 2013, 60.0% for 2014) and paid employment (50.0% for 2013, 48.9% for 2014).

Table 7. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire degree for graduates⁵

Income sources	2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Government	1,711	59.6%	1,500	60.0%
Family	1,944	67.7%	1,692	67.7%
Paid employment	1,436	50.0%	1,221	48.9%
Scholarship	696	24.2%	635	25.4%
HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan	1,193	41.5%	1,038	41.5%
Savings/Trust fund	441	15.4%	357	14.3%
Personal Loan	285	9.9%	270	10.8%
Other	68	2.4%	0	0.0%

The first preference of state of future practice shows minor fluctuations from year to year. NSW has consistently been the most preferred state (29.0% to 33.9%), followed by Victoria (22.0% to 27.3%) and then Queensland (19.4% to 19.9%) (Table 8a). These three states combined make up approximately 75% of all first preference of state choices. Those who have their first preference of practicing in a country other than Australia ranged from 4.1% (in 2013) and 5.5% (in 2012) over the four years. These results can be analysed with respondent state of study (Table 8b) and actual intern acceptance by state (Table 14) for comparative purposes.

Table 8a. Career intention: first preference of state of future practice by year⁶

First preference State of future practice	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
NSW	744	29.4	813	29.2	827	29.0	830	33.9
VIC	645	25.5	760	27.3	771	27.0	537	22.0
QLD	492	19.4	553	19.9	560	19.6	481	19.7
SA	170	6.7	154	5.5	192	6.7	162	6.6
WA	244	9.6	238	8.6	262	9.2	187	7.6
TAS	49	1.9	37	1.3	44	1.5	54	2.2
NT	28	1.1	33	1.2	34	1.2	29	1.2
ACT	23	0.9	40	1.4	44	1.5	51	2.1
Country other than Australia	135	5.3	154	5.5	117	4.1	115	4.7
Total	2,530	100.0	2,782	100.0	2,851	100.0	2,446	100.0

⁵ Question first asked in 2013 and participants could pick more than one option

⁶ Data for 2010 not included due to data quality concerns

Table 8b. Number of respondents by state of completion and year 2010 to 2014

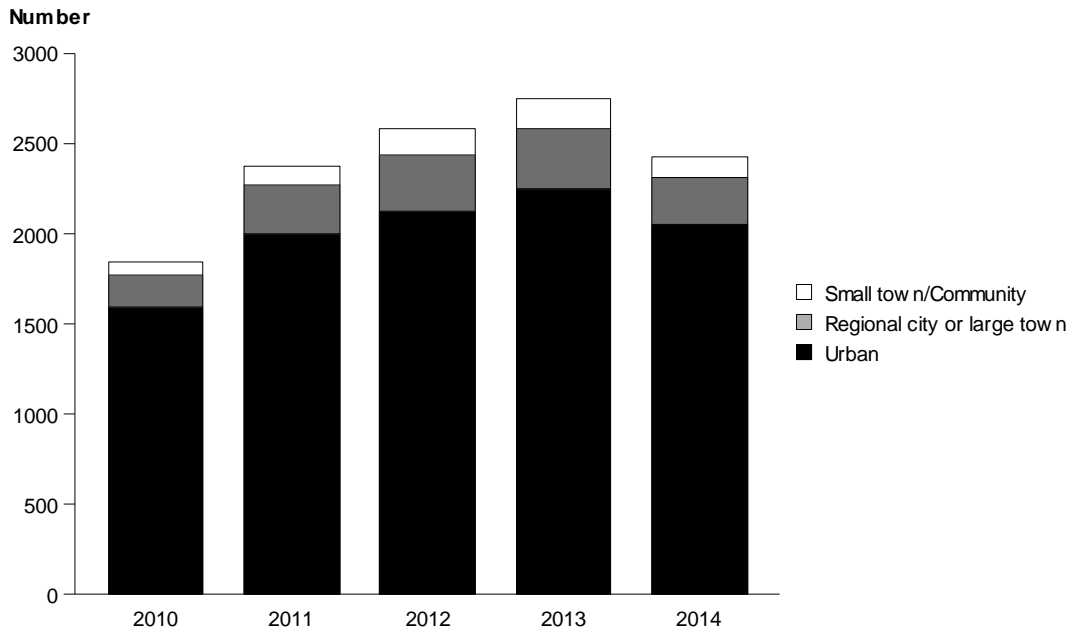
State of completion	2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
NSW	717	28.0	818	29.1	847	29.5	861	34.5
VIC	651	25.4	686	24.4	716	24.9	545	21.8
QLD	570	22.3	644	22.9	605	21.1	547	21.9
SA	92	3.6	118	4.2	137	4.8	140	5.6
WA	389	15.2	367	13.0	415	14.4	196	7.8
TAS	87	3.4	103	3.7	99	3.4	110	4.4
ACT	55	2.1	79	2.8	53	1.8	100	4.0
Total	2,561	100.0	2,815	100.0	2,872	100.0	2,499	100.0

When asked about first preferred region of future practice, the majority of graduates across all years chose an Urban location (81.8% to 86.5%) (Table 9). Small towns/communities rose slightly from 4.0% to 6.0% from 2010 to 2013 and declined to 4.6% in 2014. Similarly the first preference of Regional cities or large towns had a very minor increase until 2013 (9.5% to 12.2%) and declined to 11.0% in 2014. These small fluctuations can be seen in Graph 2a (raw numbers) and Graph 2b (proportionally). The preferred country of future practice can be seen in Table 10, with those choosing outside of Australia separated into “New Zealand” and “Other” categories. There has been a slight increase in the number of students preferring to practice in New Zealand in 2014 (0.7%). Although these numbers are small, it would be of interest to monitor these slight movements to see if this continues to increase from 2015 onwards.

Table 9. Career intention: first preference region of future practice for students preferring to practice in Australia, by year

First preference region of future practice	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Urban	1,594	86.5	2,004	84.3	2,128	82.3	2,246	81.8	2,051	84.5
Regional city or large town	176	9.5	269	11.3	314	12.1	335	12.2	266	11.0
Small town/Community	73	4.0	105	4.4	143	5.5	165	6.0	111	4.6
Total	1,843	100.0	2,378	100.0	2,585	100.0	2,746	100.0	2,428	100.0

Graph 2a. Career intention: first preference region of future practice for students preferring to practice in Australia, by year



Graph 2b. Career intention: first preference region of future practice for students preferring to practice in Australia, by year

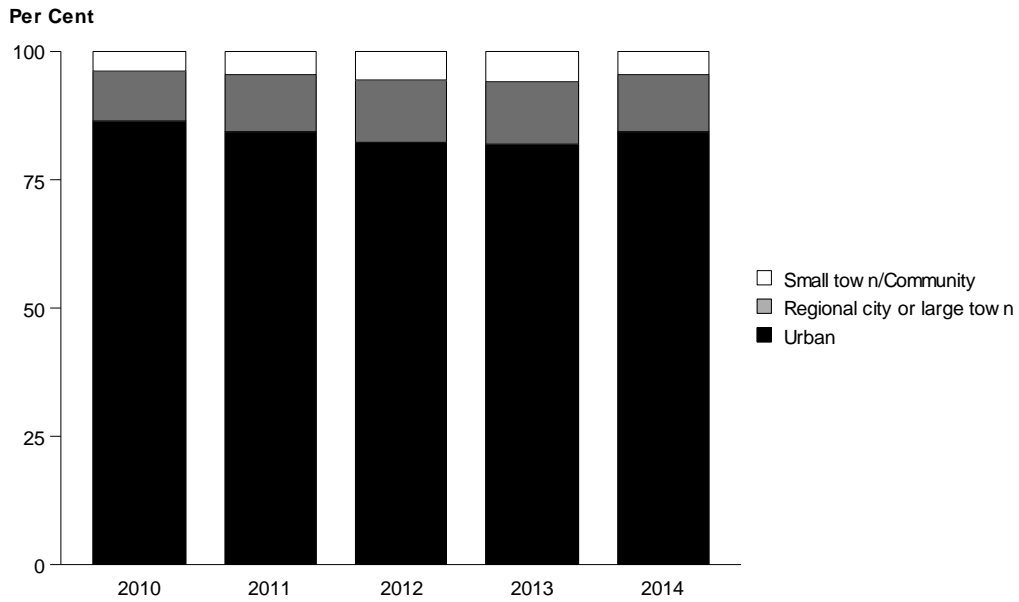


Table 10. Preferred country of future practice by year

Preferred Country of future practice	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australia	1,859	94.3	2,396	94.9	2,628	94.5	2,734	96.1	2,331	95.3
New Zealand	6	0.3	4	0.2	5	0.2	4	0.1	17	0.7
Other	106	5.4	124	4.9	149	5.4	108	3.8	98	4.0
Total	1,971	100.0	2,524	100.0	2,782	100.0	2,846	100.0	2,446	100.0

The top three intended areas of future practice across all years were Adult Medicine / Internal Medicine / Physician, Surgery, and General Practice. General Practice as a first preference has increased from 12.3% in 2010 to 16.1% in 2014, however it was ranked first in 2013 with 17.0% of respondents choosing this area of future practice. Nearly 20% of graduates chose Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician as their first preference in 2014 when compared to 2010 when only 16.3% of respondents chose this option. On the other hand, Surgery as a first preference has declined over the years, from 23.0% in 2010 to 16.2% in 2014. Psychiatry ranked (on average) 9th across the five years, whilst on average Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine contributed to 8.0% and 2.5% of first preference area choices across all years.

Table 11. First preference area of future practice by year

First preference area of future practice	2010			2011			2012		
	Number	Per cent	Rank (in year)	Number	Per cent	Rank (in year)	Number	Per cent	Rank (in year)
Addiction Medicine	.	.	.	14	0.6	15	6	0.2	19
Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician	287	16.3	2	430	19.1	1	444	17.7	1
Anaesthesia	170	9.6	4	171	7.6	6	213	8.5	5
Dermatology	31	1.8	13	35	1.6	13	48	1.9	13
Emergency Medicine	135	7.6	6	195	8.7	5	211	8.4	6
General Practice	218	12.3	3	282	12.6	3	370	14.7	3
Indigenous Health	2	0.1	18	4	0.2	23	7	0.3	18
Intensive Care Medicine	57	3.2	8	53	2.4	10	53	2.1	10
Medical Administration (eg managing a hospital)	2	0.1	19	10	0.4	18	5	0.2	22
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice (eg career as a medical officer in a hospital)	3	0.2	16	1	0.0	26	1	0.0	26
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	107	6.1	7	136	6.1	7	170	6.8	7
Occupational and Environmental Medicine	2	0.1	20
Ophthalmology	41	2.3	10	59	2.6	9	51	2.0	12
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	.	.	.	10	0.4	19	10	0.4	16
Paediatrics and Child Health	152	8.6	5	222	9.9	4	256	10.2	4
Pain Medicine	.	.	.	1	0.0	27	2	0.1	25
Palliative Medicine	.	.	.	6	0.3	21	8	0.3	17
Pathology	19	1.1	14	21	0.9	14	14	0.6	14
Psychiatry	46	2.6	9	48	2.1	11	67	2.7	8
Public Health Medicine	7	0.4	15	12	0.5	17	5	0.2	23
Radiation Oncology	.	.	.	8	0.4	20	4	0.2	24
Radiology	40	2.3	11	37	1.6	12	53	2.1	11
Rehabilitation Medicine	2	0.1	21	4	0.2	24	1	0.0	27
Rural and Remote Medicine	33	1.9	12	61	2.7	8	56	2.2	9
Sexual Health Medicine	.	.	.	2	0.1	25	6	0.2	20
Sport and Exercise Medicine	2	0.1	22	5	0.2	22	11	0.4	15
Surgery	407	23.0	1	406	18.1	2	436	17.3	2
Other	3	0.2	17	14	0.6	16	6	0.2	21
Total	1,766	100.0	253	2,247	100.0	378	2,514	100.0	378

Table 11. First preference area of future practice by year (continued)

First preference area of future practice	2013			2014		
	Number	Per cent	Rank (in year)	Number	Per cent	Rank (in year)
Addiction Medicine	3	0.1	25	3	0.1	21
Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician	456	16.6	2	476	19.5	1
Anaesthesia	193	7.0	6	183	7.5	6
Dermatology	44	1.6	14	42	1.7	12
Emergency Medicine	229	8.3	5	186	7.6	5
General Practice	469	17.0	1	392	16.1	3
Indigenous Health	4	0.1	23	.	.	.
Intensive Care Medicine	59	2.1	10	64	2.6	10
Medical Administration (eg managing a hospital)	1	0.0	27	2	0.1	22
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice (eg career as a medical officer in a hospital)	5	0.2	21	4	0.2	18
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	167	6.1	7	182	7.5	7
Occupational and Environmental Medicine	1	0.0	28	1	0.0	24
Ophthalmology	55	2.0	12	69	2.8	9
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	8	0.3	20	.	.	.
Paediatrics and Child Health	264	9.6	4	250	10.3	4
Pain Medicine	2	0.1	26	2	0.1	23
Palliative Medicine	13	0.5	17	6	0.2	16
Pathology	15	0.5	15	18	0.7	13
Psychiatry	82	3.0	9	74	3.0	8
Public Health Medicine	11	0.4	19	6	0.2	17
Radiation Oncology	14	0.5	16	12	0.5	14
Radiology	51	1.9	13	54	2.2	11
Rehabilitation Medicine	5	0.2	22	4	0.2	19
Rural and Remote Medicine	57	2.1	11	.	.	.
Sexual Health Medicine	4	0.1	24	4	0.2	20
Sport and Exercise Medicine	13	0.5	18	9	0.4	15
Surgery	440	16.0	3	394	16.2	2
Other	90	3.3	8	.	.	.
Total	2,755	100.0	406	2,437	100.0	300

There has been an increase in both the number and proportion of graduates who are interested in teaching, with 85.0% indicating “Yes” in 2014 compared to 77.1% in 2010 (Table 13). Conversely, there has been a decline in respondents answering “No” or “Undecided” to this question from 2010 to 2014. Although overall interest in research is much lower than interest in teaching across all years, there has been an increase in graduate interest in research from 2010 (52.7%) to 2014 (63.9%) (Table 13).

Table 12. Interest in teaching by year

Interest in teaching	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
No	86	4.5	87	3.6	102	3.9	84	3.0	67	2.7
Yes	1,478	77.1	1,919	79.6	2,111	79.9	2,400	84.3	2,116	85.0
Undecided	353	18.4	404	16.8	429	16.2	363	12.8	306	12.3
Total	1,917	100.0	2,410	100.0	2,642	100.0	2,847	100.0	2,489	100.0

Table 13. Interest in research by year

Interest in research	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
No	362	18.9	438	18.2	414	15.7	402	14.2	320	12.9
Yes	1,010	52.7	1,293	53.8	1,464	55.5	1,702	60.0	1,587	63.9
Undecided	543	28.4	674	28.0	759	28.8	734	25.9	575	23.2
Total	1,915	100.0	2,405	100.0	2,637	100.0	2,838	100.0	2,482	100.0

Almost one third of graduates were accepted into internship in NSW in 2014, which was a higher proportion when comparing to previous years (Table 14). The proportion of those being accepted into internships in Victoria dipped below 20% for the first time in 2014 (since exit data collection in 2010), and there was also a slight decline in graduate internship acceptance in Queensland from 24.6% in 2010 to 21.5% in 2014. Internship acceptance into South Australia has increased slightly over the years from 4.8% in 2010 to 8.5% in 2014.

Table 14. Internship acceptance state by year

Internship acceptance state	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
NSW	564	28.8	711	28.6	739	28.1	741	27.9	749	32.1
VIC	493	25.2	560	22.5	613	23.3	686	25.8	461	19.8
QLD	481	24.6	530	21.3	552	21.0	537	20.2	502	21.5
SA	93	4.8	193	7.8	203	7.7	238	9.0	199	8.5
WA	146	7.5	268	10.8	263	10.0	268	10.1	191	8.2
TAS	33	1.7	62	2.5	66	2.5	54	2.0	66	2.8
NT	15	0.8	31	1.2	26	1.0	46	1.7	28	1.2
ACT	50	2.6	40	1.6	76	2.9	64	2.4	85	3.6
Country other than Australia	81	4.1	95	3.8	94	3.6	24	0.9	51	2.2
Total	1,956	100.0	2,490	100.0	2,632	100.0	2,658	100.0	2,332	100.0

The level of satisfaction with the medical program at universities was ranked from 1 (Very Satisfied) to 5 (Very Dissatisfied). The average level of satisfaction for all medical programs in Australia was 2.2 across years 2010 to 2013 and declined slightly to 2.1 in 2014 (Table 15). The median satisfaction level of each year was “satisfied”. The majority of graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with their medical programs at their university, with numbers in 2014 rising above 80% since 2010. Conversely, the proportion of unsatisfied or very unsatisfied graduates had gradually declined over the years from 15.2% in 2010 to 6.5% in 2014 (the lowest it has been).

Table 15. Overall level of Satisfaction with the Medical program at their university

Satisfaction	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Average satisfaction	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1
Median satisfaction	2	2	2	2	2
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	84.8	75.3	75.5	74.9	81.0
Per cent unsatisfied or very unsatisfied	15.2	8.1	8.4	9.5	6.5

With regards to graduates who had previous tertiary education prior to undertaking their medical program, over 90% had completed at least a degree/certificate (e.g. Bachelors) across all years (Table 16). Those who had completed Masters Degrees fluctuated between 4.3% and 7.3% from 2010 to 2014. The highest proportion of graduates completing their Masters level of education came from the 2014 cohort, though in the same year, only 1.3% of respondents had completed their PHD.

Table 16. Highest level previous degree by year, 2010 to 2014

previous degree highest Degree level	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Degree/Certificate	894	91.7	1,154	92.2	1,305	92.5	1,224	92.7	1,167	91.4
Masters	54	5.5	80	6.4	73	5.2	57	4.3	93	7.3
PHD	27	2.8	18	1.4	33	2.3	40	3.0	17	1.3
Total	975	100.0	1,252	100.0	1,411	100.0	1,321	100.0	1,277	100.0

The majority of graduates had completed their previous degrees in the disciplines of Science, Medical Science or Health/Allied Health (Table 17a). In 2010, 41.9% of graduates with previous degrees held these in the discipline of Science, however this proportion had dropped to 34.3% in 2014. Those with previous degrees in Medical Science have slightly increased over each year between 2010 (22.8%) and 2014 (25.8). Approximately one-fifth of respondents to this questions had previous Health/Allied Health degrees across all years. Those with previous degrees in Humanities, Commerce/Business/Law and Physical Sciences contributed individually to less than 10% for each yearly cohort.

Table 17a. Discipline of highest previous degree by year 2010 to 2014 (based on data collected at commencement)

Discipline of highest previous degree	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Science	409	41.9	443	35.4	577	40.9	518	39.2	438	34.3
Medical science	222	22.8	293	23.4	332	23.5	313	23.7	330	25.8
Health/Allied health	187	19.2	284	22.7	268	19.0	267	20.2	265	20.7
Humanities	69	7.1	118	9.4	114	8.1	113	8.6	101	7.9
Commerce/Business/Law	38	3.9	64	5.1	61	4.3	54	4.1	69	5.4
Physical sciences	40	4.1	36	2.9	45	3.2	33	2.5	57	4.5
Other/Unknown	10	1.0	14	1.1	14	1.0	23	1.7	18	1.4
Total	975	100.0	1,252	100.0	1,411	100.0	1,321	100.0	1,278	100.0

The revised MSWS survey now captures discipline of highest previous degree data at graduation (Table 17b). Nearly half of all respondents had completed a previous degree in Natural and Physical Sciences, whilst 39.6% had completed a Health-related degree. The top five Health-related areas of these degrees were Medical Studies (15.5%), Rehabilitation Therapies (6.3%), Pharmacy (5.9%), Other Health (4.0%) and Nursing / Midwifery (2.0%).

Table 17b. Discipline of highest previous degree by year 2014 (based on data collected at graduation)

Discipline of highest previous degree	2014	
	Number	Per cent
Natural and Physical Sciences	680	48.1%
Information Technology	19	1.3%
Engineering and Related Technologies	67	4.7%
Architecture and Building	7	0.5%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	5	0.4%
Health Total*	561	39.6%
-- Medical studies	220	15.5%
-- Complementary Therapies	4	0.3%
-- Dental Studies	9	0.6%
-- Nursing / Midwifery	28	2.0%
-- Optical Science	13	0.9%
-- Pharmacy	84	5.9%
-- Rehabilitation Therapies	89	6.3%
-- Radiography	16	1.1%
-- Public Health	23	1.6%
-- Veterinary Studies	10	0.7%
-- Other Health	57	4.0%
Education	21	1.5%
Management and Commerce	59	4.2%
Society and Culture	131	9.3%
Creative Arts	39	2.8%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	3	0.2%
Mixed Field Programmes	10	0.7%

Tables 18, 19 and 2 show the influencing factors⁷ on graduate choice of most preferred area of medicine. From 2010 to 2014 the perceived financial prospects on graduate choice of most preferred area of medicine becomes less of an influencing factor, with the proportion of respondents selecting “Not at all” gradually increasing (16.4% to 22.5%) and conversely those selecting “4 or a great deal” gradually declining (30.2% to 25.3%) (Table 18). The majority of students reported that the financial costs of medical school education/debt did not influence their career choice; those who responded “4 or a great deal” were consistently under 10% and the proportion of respondents selecting “Not at all” were found to be between 45.0% to 49.6% across all years (Table 19). Approximately 35% of graduates reported “4 or a great deal” on the level of influence the number of years required to complete training, whilst 12.6% to 15.0% answered that this factor did not influence the choice of most preferred area of medicine between 2010 to 2014 (Table 20).

⁷ Scale: 1 = Not a lot to 5 = A great deal

Table 18. Level of influence of perceived financial prospects on choice of most preferred area of medicine by year

Perceived financial prospects influenced choice	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Not at all	321	16.4	471	18.7	469	17.0	617	21.7	559	22.5
4 or a great deal	591	30.2	666	26.4	729	26.5	683	24.1	630	25.3

Table 19. Level of influence of financial costs of medical school education/debt on choice of most preferred area of medicine by year

Financial costs of medical school education/debt influenced choice	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Not at all	882	45.0	1,175	46.7	1,282	46.4	1,409	49.6	1,190	47.9
4 or a great deal	192	9.8	245	9.7	245	8.9	220	7.7	241	9.7

Table 20. Level of influence of number of years required to complete training on choice of most preferred area of medicine by year

Factor - number of years required to complete training	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Not at all	265	13.6	318	12.6	349	12.7	423	15.0	360	14.5
4 or a great deal	684	35.0	867	34.5	922	33.5	961	34.0	910	36.6

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