

February 22, 2011

To all Victorian Medical students,

RE: INTERNSHIP POSITIONS IN VICTORIAN HEALTH SERVICES IN 2012

In recent months, the Medical Student Council of Victoria (MSCV) has been made aware of a significant number of students with concerns regarding the availability of Internship positions in Victorian health services in 2012. For these concerned students, this letter serves to outline the current status and progress in Internship position availability.

The Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV) is responsible for accrediting pre-vocational Hospital Medical Officer (HMO) positions in Victorian health services, including Internship positions. Positions are allocated annually in June, via a computer matching system administered by the PMCV. Internship positions are funded by the State Government Department of Health.

The PMCV has recently confirmed that graduates of Victorian Medical Schools, including those students who attend the University of Notre Dame Sydney 'Melbourne Clinical School' for both Clinical years, who are permanent residents of Australia, are guaranteed Internship positions in Victorian health services in the 2011 computer match. This includes permanent-resident students enrolled in Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs), Bonded Medical Places (BMPs) and Domestic Undergraduate Full Fee (DUFF) places¹.

We regret to advise that, according to current estimates and due to sharp increases in the number of graduating permanent-resident students, a large majority of International (temporary resident) students will likely not gain an Internship position in the 2011 computer match, unless permanent residency is obtained prior to June 2011. As such, International students are encouraged to begin to explore options for completing their Internship interstate or obtaining employment in their country of origin or elsewhere overseas. For assistance, students are recommended to speak with their Clinical School.

Representative bodies, including the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) and MSCV continue to lobby the Victorian Government for increases to the number of Internship positions available to Victorian graduates.

By April 2011, PMCV will have confirmed the total number of graduates of Victorian Medical Schools, the number of creditable Internship positions available in Victorian health services and will have determined details on how these positions are allocated in the 2011 computer matching system. Until each of these processes is complete this information cannot be confirmed, but will be communicated to final-year students as soon as available.

MSCV would encourage concerned students to contact the International Officer or President of their Medical Student Society, whose contact details may be found on the MSCV website, www.mscv.org.au.

Yours truly,



James Churchill
Chair, Medical Student Council of Victoria

The Medical Student Council of Victoria is the peak representative body for Victorian Medical students, consisting of representatives from each of the relevant Medical Student Society Executives. Further information, including contact details, may be found at www.mscv.org.au.

¹ The 2006 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) commitment to provide clinical placements and Internship positions for Commonwealth-supported students was extended, by the Victorian Government in the 2007/08 Budget, to include those DUFF students who had already commenced training in Victoria and are expected to graduate in 2012.