

JOINT STATEMENT

Supporting the voluntary sharing of information between final year medical students and Queensland Health

Queensland medical schools, the Queensland Medical Student Council (QLD MSC) and Queensland Health are working together to smooth the transition to internship by encouraging medical students and graduates to share information about their individual support needs with their new employers.

By voluntarily sharing information about their physical or mental health needs or carer responsibilities, medical students and graduates enable health services to plan for and implement reasonable adjustments (e.g. adjusting rosters or rotations to accommodate regular health appointments). This can greatly assist new interns in making a successful, safe, and less stressful transition to practice.

Changes to legislation and regulation of the health sector in recent years have positively recognised wellbeing as a shared responsibility between employer and employee. The responsibility of health services is clear: to safeguard the wellbeing and psychosocial safety of their staff. This is important not only for staff; it enhances patient safety.

The Directors of Clinical Training (DCTs) and Medical Education units (MEUs) in Queensland hospitals act as advocates for interns and ensure that interns deliver safe patient care. They are well placed to support the voluntary, safe sharing of information by students, graduates, and new interns. Where possible, an early-stage sharing of information about support needs is encouraged.

Health services will ensure that any information provided by students, graduates and new interns remains confidential, used only for the purposes of providing support.

Many Queensland health services have begun to implement the early sharing of information, and an increasing number of students and graduates now feel confident enough to ask for individual supports in their new roles. Medical schools and Queensland Health have joined with QLD MSC to accelerate this process through this joint statement.

Our vision is for an integrated medical education and training pathway where medical students, interns and junior doctors feel confident to ask their employers for support to meet physical or mental health needs or caring responsibilities, and where employers provide reasonable supports in the knowledge that this benefits staff, patients, and health services.

We encourage students/graduates preparing to transition to practice to contact the [MEU at the relevant hospital](#) to discuss any individual support needs they may have prior to commencing internship.

This communique is endorsed by:

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