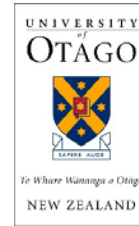




MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES



27th October 2016

Hons Steven Joyce, Jonathan Coleman and Bill English

Dear Ministers,

The Universities of Auckland and Otago are committed to fulfilling the government's plan for growing the supply of medical graduates in this country. This 50% growth (400 graduates in 2008 to 600 by 2020) has been carefully planned and designed to meet New Zealand's future health workforce in all areas, and especially in rural primary healthcare. This national plan cannot be accomplished without the support of all DHBs.

We are distressed to note the accompanying letter from Waikato DHB requesting that the Auckland medical school reduces its placements in the Waikato Hospital, even before Government approval or AMC accreditation has been granted for the proposed medical training programme. This letter removes any doubt about Waikato's intention to establish a competing programme and to exclude Auckland students who do not meet their requirements. They make a hollow offer to take some Auckland sixth-year students but only if they originate from the Waikato region, have a rural background or are committed to a PGY1 place at Waikato DHB. This is not in the spirit of a national strategy.

We began 2016 with an assurance from WDHB that they could accommodate the planned growth in the numbers of students in years four to six of the Auckland programme and the University of Auckland has further invested in Waikato DHB and in the adjoining DHBs: Bay of Plenty DHB, Lakes and Taranaki, with further expansions planned in 2017 and 2018. While we obtained an assurance, we are repeatedly met with obfuscation - they have no spare training capacity and would struggle to accommodate the planned growth.

We note that there has, as yet, been minimal consultation with key stakeholders. This highlights the need for a Government-led national strategy on medical workforce development. An agreed national strategy should inform the number and type of medical students required for distribution, how and where they are best trained and what the most cost effective method is to achieve the desired outcome. The *ad hoc* Waikato proposal is regionally focused and does little to serve a national imperative, and would impose major ongoing costs on the Government.

We request an urgent meeting with you to discuss these concerns and explore solutions to a national strategy for medical training.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fraser'.

John Fraser, PhD, FRSNZ
Dean, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
University of Auckland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Crampton'.

Peter Crampton, MBChB; PhD; FNZCPHM,
MRNZCGP
Pro-Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences
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