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20 April 2018

## **New medical schools not the answer to rural medical workforce shortage**

Queensland junior doctors have warned that the rural workforce shortages cannot be answered through a flood of medical students.

The AMA Queensland Council of Doctors in Training (CDT) Chair, Dr Christopher Maguire, today commented on the proposal to open a new medical school in the Murray-Darling region by La Trobe and Charles Sturt Universities.

“Getting more doctors to the bush is essential, but the answer is not worsening the current flood of medical students, the answer is more funding for quality rural training pathways,” Dr Christopher Maguire said.

“Medical student places in Australia have more than doubled in the past decade, placing severe strain on professional training pathways<sup>1</sup>, including those that guide doctors to qualified rural practice.

“Building a rural doctor is not as simple as just putting a medical student in the bush.

“A rural doctor needs to be proficient in areas of critical care, obstetrics, surgery, and general practice – they are providing a full service to their community. These skills require a well funded rural training pathway,” Dr Christopher Maguire explained.

AMA Queensland has offered to work with government stakeholders in Queensland to help address this ongoing concern.

“We all have a part to place in solving this problem,” Dr Maguire noted.

“We need to support and extend the good work that our current Medical Schools – James Cook University, Griffith University, The University of Queensland, and Bond University – are doing to extend their world class programs to support rural communities.”

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<sup>1</sup> [Review of Australian Government Health Workforce 2013](#)