



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's Health Workforce

The Australian Health Ministers Conference is holding a special workforce meeting tomorrow to finalise new arrangements for future clinical training places to meet the growing workforce demands across the country.

The Commonwealth and the States and Territories agreed at COAG in 2008 to take action to provide quality clinical training to our increasing numbers of medical, nursing and allied health students (with domestic medical graduates increasing from 1544 in 2007 to an expected 2920 in 2012).

Training our future health workforce is a challenge that Governments need to act on together.

Establishing Health Workforce Australia is part of the historic 2008 COAG partnership which is delivering a record \$1.6 billion in workforce investments. The Rudd Government has committed \$1.1 billion to the partnership, with \$500m dedicated to clinical subsidies, and the States have committed \$500 million.

The first CEO of Health Workforce Australia (HWA), Mark Cormack, has been appointed, taking up this position after running the ACT health service for 3 years.

Now that Health Workforce Australia is operational, governments across the country will finalise details for expanded clinical training at the dedicated AHMC meeting this Friday.

More students training as health professionals will mean that, over time, Australians will find it easier to get the health care they need, where they need it.

I look forward to HWA improving the integration of our workforce planning across public and private settings and across Commonwealth and State investments.

This builds on Rudd Government action to increase GP training places by 35% and to increase University nursing places by 1034.

For all media inquiries, please contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 7220.