More Opportunities for Junior Doctors

A new council will be set up in the NT to help ensure the recruitment and retention of junior doctors.

The Health Minister Chris Burns said the new Northern Territory Postgraduate Medical Council would play an important part in ensuring quality accredited training for junior doctors.

He said the establishment of the council delivers on a key commitment from the medical education summit held in Darwin earlier this year.

“Without accreditation training, junior doctors are unable to enter into specialist training programs,” Dr Burns said.

“That can mean junior doctors don’t come or stay in the Territory for long periods.”

Dr Burns said the main role of the Postgraduate Medical Council will be to accredit health facilities to ensure that intern training is carried out, and results in the registration of junior doctors.

“The council will also develop initiatives to improve the education and training of those doctors,” he said.

“Doctors who train in the Territory and have a good experience during that time are more likely to stay and add to a stable health workforce.

“The NT Government has already increased the number of doctors in our workforce by 115 since 2001 and we want to build on that good work.”

Dr Burns said the Postgraduate Medical Council will be chaired by Associate Professor Elizabeth Chalmers and will be made up of 8-10 experts and members of stakeholder groups.

“I’m especially pleased that Professor Chalmers has agreed to head up this important health body,” Dr Burns said.

“She is a well known Territory doctor with a strong background in service delivery and academic fields, and is a former head of NT Rural Clinical School.

“Professor Chalmers brings immense knowledge and leadership to the role and I know that under her stewardship, the council will provide more opportunities for our young doctors.”

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