



Media release: ACEM welcomes most significant move in recent years to improve quality care in hospital EDs

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) has welcomed today's announcement by the Federal Government to dramatically increase training opportunities in emergency medicine. President, Dr Sally McCarthy, said the initiative was the most significant move in recent years to increase quality care in hospital emergency departments (EDs).

"Today's announcement recognizes the 'front and centre' position of emergency medicine in the training of specialists, non-specialists, junior doctors and nursing staff," Dr McCarthy said. "One in four Australians visits an emergency department each year, and this funding and strong focus on emergency medicine training will provide long-term benefit to the whole community."

Dr McCarthy said the opportunity for increased training was particularly significant for smaller hospitals.

"While emergency medicine specialists currently provide expert clinical care and supervision at a large number of EDs across the country, in fact, a much larger number of often small hospitals and health centres in rural and remote areas do not have emergency medicine specialists on site. At these facilities, front line emergency care is provided by non-specialist doctors and nurses, with distant back up; and it is to these practitioners and these communities that the funding for emergency medicine education will make a large impact, now and for the future," Dr McCarthy said.

Today's Federal Government announcement promises funding to support the cost of training places for 22 emergency doctors per year and five international medical graduates per year; the cost of supervision time for two specialists at 129 EDs across Australia; and support to the ACEM to administer the additional places. Additional funding will train more emergency nurses and provide student nurses with clinical training experience in EDs. In addition, the Government will support up to 20 new Emergency Medicine Education Officers in outer metropolitan and regional hospitals to help implement the newly developed ACEM Certificate and Diploma courses in emergency medicine and provide the capacity to up-skill about 400 people a year.

Dr McCarthy said assistance in the roll out of ACEM's new certificate and diploma courses for non-specialists was greatly welcomed; and the provision of funds for specialist supervision time to allow increased training opportunities for all those working in emergency medicine was a major step forward in improving the standard of care in hospital EDs."

FOR INTERVIEWS OR FURTHER INFORMATION:

ACEM President, Dr Sally McCarthy – 0410 600 302 : Australasian College for Emergency Medicine – 03 9320 0444

Issued on 26/7/10 for the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine by Kerry Reeves (0407 036 791)