



Frequently asked questions

July 2020

What is the Medical Training Survey about?

The 2020 Medical Training Survey (MTS) will strengthen the evidence base about the quality of medical training in Australia. It will gather feedback from doctors in training and support continuous improvement in medical training.

What's new in 2020?

This year, doctors in training can call out the impact of COVID 19 on their training. We have adjusted the questions about bullying and harassment slightly to get more useful information about the culture of medicine. Otherwise, the questions are the same as last year, to enable comparisons over time.

Who can do the survey?

All doctors in training in Australia can do the survey. This includes interns, hospital medical officers, resident medical officers, non-accredited trainees, postgraduate trainees, principal house officers, registrars, specialist trainees and international medical graduates. It will include career medical officers who intend to undertake further postgraduate training in medicine.

When does the survey open?

The survey will run in August and September this year.

Why is it running again in 2020?

The Medical Training Survey is an annual survey, to enable comparisons over time and support continuous improvement.

How will the Board know who to send the survey to?

When you renew your medical registration we ask you to tell us if you're a doctor in training. Everyone who identifies as a doctor in training will receive a unique link to the survey when they renew.

Interns and other medical practitioners with provisional or limited registration are automatically invited to participate.

Who will administer the survey?

EY Sweeney will again administer the survey in 2020, on behalf of the Board and Ahpra. EY Sweeney will analyse the information and develop reports.

The Board and Ahpra do not receive any information that identifies individuals.

How were the survey questions developed?

2019 [survey questions](#) are published. We developed them with the help of expert advisors, including doctors in training and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery of training in Australia. 2020 questions will be published..

Who has been involved in the Medical Training Survey?

The Board is working with experts in the medical education and training sector in Australia on this important project. Two groups guide this work:

- A [Steering Committee](#) to manage the hands on work to develop and deliver the survey, and
- An [Advisory Group](#) to make sure the survey is strengthened by input from doctors in training and other experts including specialist colleges, employers and jurisdictions, the Australian Medical Council and the AMA.

What principles guided the development of the Medical Training Survey?

We've settled on these guiding principles for the Medical Training Survey (MTS).

Quality improvement

The MTS is a quality improvement tool, to strengthen medical training in Australia.

Safe and confidential

Medical trainees and supervisors can safely and confidentially participate in the MTS. Participants' data will be de-identified in any reporting of results, and only de-identified data will be provided to the Board and Ahpra.

Focused on training

The core focus of the MTS is on post-graduate medical training.

Reflection and feedback

The MTS encourages participants to reflect on their medical training and teaching and provide feedback safely to support continuous improvement. Reflective practice is a cornerstone of good medical practice and of the Professional Performance Framework.

Access

The MTS will be relevant to medical training and not onerous to complete. It will be accessible online and easy to use, to encourage participation.

Reporting and using results

The results of the MTS will be published in the interests of transparency. Specialty and jurisdiction specific reports from MTS data will be generated as far as possible, while assuring participant confidentiality. Stakeholders will apply survey results to improve medical training.

Participation

The annual MTS will evolve, initially seeking feedback from doctors in training and in time their supervisors. It aims to reduce the need for other surveys about the same issues.

Specific questions from doctors in training

[How do I complete the survey?](#)

Doctors in training can do the survey online on their phone, tablet or PC/laptop.

Interns and IMGs

Interns and IMGs will receive their unique survey link in an email invitation from the Medical Board of Australia.

Look out for an email from the Medical Board which looks like this!



Dear Dr Woods,

We encourage you to take part in the 2020 national Medical Training Survey and tell us about your experience of medical training in Australia.

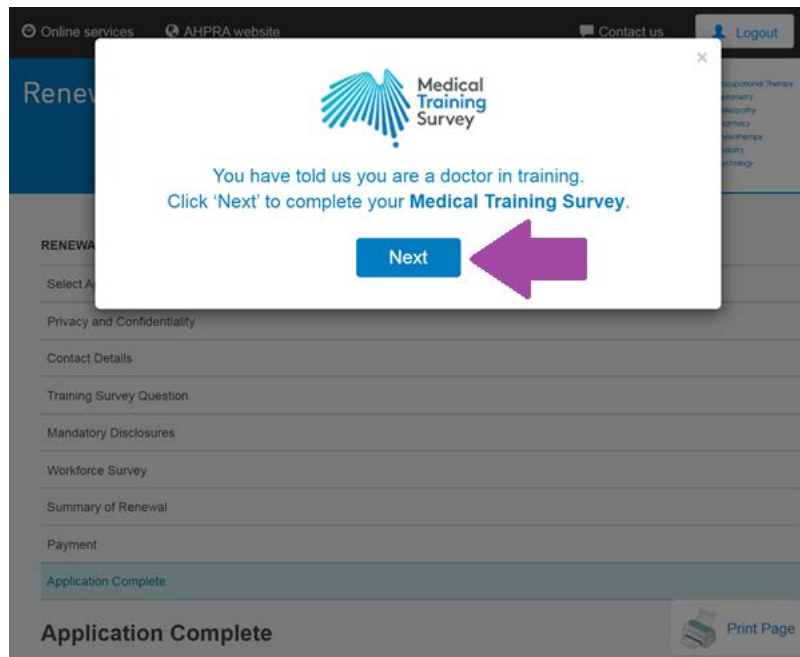
Survey results will provide a comprehensive, national picture of the strengths and weaknesses of medical training across states, territories and medical specialties.

To complete your Medical Training Survey

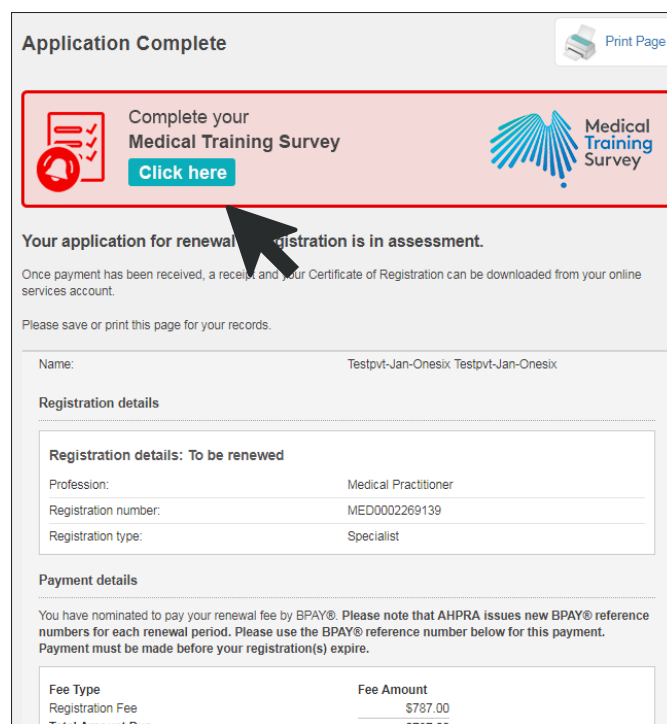
[Click here](#)

All other doctors

Prevocational and unaccredited trainees and specialist trainees can do the survey when they renew their medical registration online. The survey link will appear when you complete your registration in a pop-up box.



If you miss the pop-up box or accidentally close it, you can access your link on the confirmation of registration webpage.



What happens if I drop out of the survey?

If you lose internet connection or close the survey window, you can go back and finish the survey by clicking your unique survey link, sent in an email from the Medical Board.

Interns and IMGs can find this unique survey link in the original email invitation from the Medical Board of Australia.

Other doctors in training who renewed online will find their unique survey link in their confirmation of registration email from Ahpra.

Can I save and exit the survey if I can't complete the survey in one sitting?

Yes. You can 'save and exit' the survey. If you do this, you will be asked if you would like to receive an email with your unique survey link. You can enter your preferred email address and EY Sweeney will send you a unique survey link. When you click on this link in your email, it will take you back to the last survey question you were looking at.

Will reminder emails be sent out?

Yes. We will be sending plenty of reminder emails and SMS to anyone who is eligible and hasn't completed the survey.

Can I re-do the survey after I've submitted?

No. Once you have submitted your survey you don't have to do any more.