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Press Release

Council of Medical Colleges in New Zealand Celebrates 50 more Funded Medical Students

The Council of Medical Colleges in New Zealand (CMC) warmly welcomes Minister Verrall's announcement to fund an additional 50 medical student places from next year.

"50 more medical students per year is a huge step forward in growing our 'home-grown' workforce to meet the challenge of the growing healthcare needs in Aotearoa," says Dr Samantha Murton, Chair of CMC.

The quantity of medical students increased gradually over time – the last intake was raised in 2015, by 35 places.

"CMC want to see a robust, well-trained, culturally safe health workforce serving the best interests of their patients and the New Zealand community.

"It is important that we have a workforce that reflects our population - increasing the quantity of New Zealand-based medical students, particularly Māori and Pacific medical students, is the most significant thing we can do to increase the number of Māori and Pacific doctors working with our communities and in our hospitals.

"With an aging population and increasing demand for medical services, it is essential to invest in the future of healthcare professionals now.

"Medicine is a challenging but highly rewarding career, we strongly encourage aspiring medical students to take advantage of these additional funded student places," Dr Murton said.

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About the Council of Medical Colleges in New Zealand:

CMC represents seventeen medical colleges who provide support to over 9000 medical practitioners working in a range of 34 specialties in the Aotearoa New Zealand health system. Medical colleges are educational bodies responsible for the training, examination and recertification of medical practitioners in specific medical disciplines.