



AMA TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE – 22nd July 2010
Embargoed until 11am Thursday 22nd July 2010

TASMANIA TURNING AWAY POTENTIAL DOCTORS

Up to 20 Tasmanian final year medical students may miss out on first year training positions, next year. This would mean they will be unable to complete that year in order to become a fully accredited doctor. This flies in the face of the Tasmanian Premier's recent promise to provide training places for all Tasmanian domestic medical students.

After five to six years of training at a considerable cost to the community, some students will be either forced to leave Tasmania to pursue their careers or find work unrelated to their medical degree. Either way, Tasmanians will lose out.

Despite an ongoing request to the State Government, by both the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA), to increase funding to cover the increased demand for intern places, no acceptable outcome has been reached. Not only will these students be unable to practise as doctors, but Tasmania as a whole will suffer because of the reduced number of doctors likely to work here.

"The Government has been aware of this for more than three years," said Dr Michael Aizen, President of AMA Tasmania. "The severe shortage of doctors in Tasmania will worsen as a consequence

Of the 104 final year students enrolled this year, 90 domestic students will compete for just 70 intern positions. This is unacceptable. We may well see them driving taxis or serving hamburgers. None of the full fee paying international students have been offered a position either, said Dr. Aizen".

Further comment:

Dr Aizen will be outside McDonald's Restaurant, Sandy Bay, at 11 am tomorrow for a door stop. He can be contacted on 0408 339 351.

Dr. Michael Aizen
President
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0408 339 351

END