



Fact sheet

May 2021

What is the Medical Training Survey (MTS)?

- A national, profession-wide survey of all doctors in training in Australia.
- A safe, confidential way to get national, comparative, profession-wide data to improve medical training in Australia.
- A joint project from doctors in training, employers, educators, professional associations and regulators.
- A quality improvement tool to help strengthen medical training.
- A survey to identify and help deal with potential issues in medical training that could impact on patient safety, including environment and culture, unacceptable behaviours and poor supervision.

Why do the MTS?

Results provide a snapshot of the quality and experience of medical training in Australia through the eyes of doctors in training.

Stakeholders are already using MTS results to identify issues and improve training.

2021 survey results will build on 2019 and 2020 results, creating a comprehensive, national picture of the strengths and weaknesses of medical training across states, territories and medical specialties in Australia. Results identify current strengths and provide a baseline for ongoing improvements.

Visit the MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au website to hear why doctors in training are doing the MTS and why everyone's voice should be heard.

How do I do the MTS?

- **Interns and IMGs:** Click on the survey link in an email from the Medical Board of Australia.
- **Prevocational and unaccredited trainees, Specialist non-GP trainees and Specialist GP trainees:** Do the survey when you renew your medical registration. We ask you whether you are a doctor in training in the renewal form. When you say YES, the survey link appears after you complete your renewal and workforce survey.

What topics does the MTS cover?

The MTS asks questions about your training program and training post. It includes questions about your supervision, access to teaching, workplace environment and culture and your wellbeing.

What is new in 2021?

MTS questions are reviewed each year by doctors in training, specialist medical colleges, postgraduate medical councils, employers, AMA, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and the Australian Medical Council.

This year, we're asking again about the impact of COVID-19, because trainees said the impact wasn't over.

The survey tool has been revamped to make it shorter and easier to navigate.

Who can do the Medical Training Survey?

All doctors in training in Australia. This includes interns, hospital medical officers, resident medical officers, non-accredited trainees, postgraduate trainees, principal house officers, registrars, specialist GP trainees and specialist non-GP trainees. Career medical officers who intend to undertake further postgraduate training in medicine can also participate.

More detail

The MTS:

- Will run during August and September
- Is asking doctors in training about the quality of medical training in Australia
- Is safe, confidential and anonymous

- Is accessible online from your phone, tablet or laptop
- Will be conducted by an independent third party, EY Sweeney
- Is supported by doctors in training, specialist colleges, employers, health departments, educators, the AMA, Doctors' Health Services, Postgraduate Medical Councils, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, the Australian Medical Council, the Medical Council of NSW, the Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra.

Confidentiality and privacy

- It's safe and confidential to do the MTS and it won't take long.
- There is no link between your survey feedback and your medical registration. Your privacy is guaranteed.
- Your contact details will not be passed onto any third party. Ahpra will send you your survey link and EY Sweeney will collect de-identified data.
- The Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra will not receive any information or answers that identify individuals.
- When you click on your individual survey link, you will be taken to a third-party website, hosted by EY Sweeney.

Your answers

- The MTS is anonymous and your answers will be handled in line with the privacy policies of the Medical Board of Australia, Ahpra and EY Sweeney.
- Only de-identified survey data will be provided to Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia.
- Answers will be de-identified and aggregated in reporting of results.
- It's safe and confidential to take part when there are small numbers of trainees at any site, because results will build over years to create a picture of the quality of training there.
- De-identified and aggregated data will be published and shared with jurisdictions, employers, specialist college and postgraduate medical councils to shape future training improvements.

- You can access the de-identified and aggregated data from the past surveys online at MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au/Results website.
- You can create your own tailored reports with our online [data dashboard](#). Use it to compare specialities and training sites – use the results to inform your training choices!

Aggregated results

- Are being used to improve medical training in Australia.
- Are identifying issues that impact on patient safety, including environment and culture, unacceptable behaviours and the quality of supervision.
- Are reported publicly, while protecting individual privacy.
- Are reported only when there are more than 10 survey participants, to protect confidentiality.

Longitudinal data

- 2021 results will build on 2019 and 2020 data and help map trends and detect any changes in the training experience
- You can compare 2019, 2020 and 2021 results, using the interactive data dashboard on the MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au website.

Who supports the Medical Training Survey?

- The MTS is a joint project of doctors in training, specialist colleges, employers, health departments, educators, the AMA, Doctors' Health Services, Postgraduate Medical Councils, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, the AMC, the Medical Council of NSW, the Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra.
- The idea came from doctors in training, educators and employers.
- The Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra are making it happen.

Questions?

- Go to MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au or contact us by email at MTS@ahpra.gov.au



Frequently asked questions

May 2021

What is the Medical Training Survey about?

The Medical Training Survey (MTS) gathers feedback from doctors in training about the quality and experience of medical training in Australia. 2021 results will build on results from the last two years, providing longitudinal data across specialties and jurisdictions. Results are being used to support continuous improvement in medical training.

What's coming in 2021?

We're again asking questions about the impact of COVID-19 on medical training, just in case. Otherwise, the questions are pretty consistent with past years, to enable comparisons over time.

Why do the survey?

To help shape the future of medical training! Answer questions about your experience of medical training and help build the evidence base for ongoing improvements. Read about how MTS data are being used to improve medical training and workplace culture at [MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au](https://www.MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au).

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. Career medical officers who intend to undertake further postgraduate training in medicine can do the MTS.

When does the survey open?

The survey runs in August and September.

Why is it running again in 2021?

The MTS is annual, to enable comparisons over time and support continuous improvement.

How do you 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 either receives a unique link to the survey with the registration renewal process, or interns and international medical graduates (IMGs) are invited to participate by email.

Who will administer the survey?

EY Sweeney will administer the survey in 2021, on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra. EY Sweeney will analyse the information and develop reports. The Medical Board of Australia and Ahpra do not receive any information that identifies individuals.

How were the survey questions developed?

A team of expert advisers, including doctors in training and others involved in medical training in Australia, helped develop the survey. You can find 2021 questions on the [MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au](https://www.MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au) website.

Who is involved in the Medical Training Survey?

Experts in the medical education and training sector in Australia are working with us 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 Australian Medical Association.

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

Look out for an email from the Medical Board of Australia that looks like this!



Dear Dr Surname,

We encourage you to take part in the 2021 national Medical Training Survey and tell us about your experience of medical training in Australia.

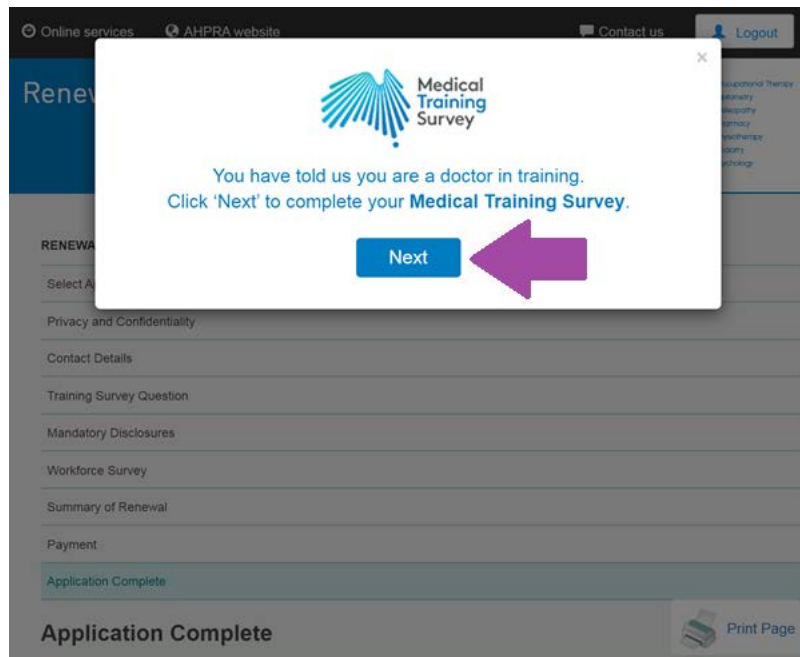
As an international medical graduate (IMG) your voice is important. Survey results will provide a comprehensive, national picture of the strengths and weaknesses of medical training for IMGs across states, territories and medical specialties.

To complete your Medical Training Survey

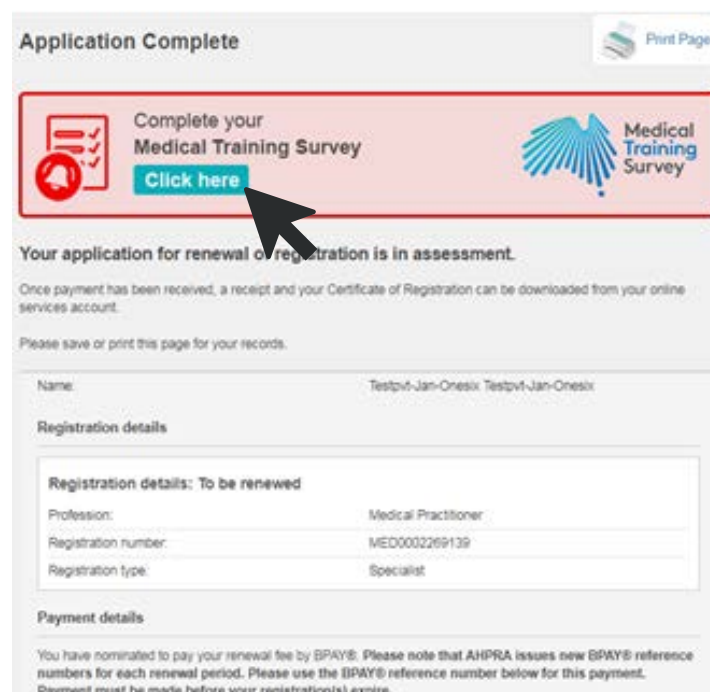
[Click here](#)

All other doctors

Prevocational and unaccredited trainees and specialist trainees can do the survey when they renew their medical registration online. The survey link appears 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 it by clicking your unique survey link, sent in an email from the Medical Board of Australia.

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 it in one sitting?

Yes. You can 'save and exit' the survey. If you do, 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.

Will I be identified if there are less than 10 trainees at my site/post/ location?

No! It's safe and confidential to do the MTS, especially when there are small numbers of trainees at your site. Results will build over years and only be reported when there are more than 10 responses. Every answer will help create an important picture of the quality of training at your post.

Doctors in Training

Make your voice heard

Do the confidential Medical Training Survey

1 Receive email to renew registration*

2 Renew your registration

3 Receive link to survey:



You have told us that you are a doctor in training.
Click 'Next' to complete your **Medical Training Survey**.

Next

4 Complete the Medical Training Survey

*Interns and IMGs will be sent a unique survey link by email from the Medical Board of Australia

Find out more at [MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au](https://www.MedicalTrainingSurvey.gov.au)