

Dr. <merge surname>
<merge mailing address>

<Merge date>

Dear Dr. <merge surname>

MABEL 2011
Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life

I am inviting you to participate in a landmark national longitudinal survey of doctors (MABEL) which is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and conducted by the University of Melbourne and Monash University. In an era of doctor shortages and increasing demands for your time, getting the right balance between your work life and life outside medicine is crucial. Managing these pressures, whilst maintaining the quality of the care you provide, your motivation and your work satisfaction, is critical for you, your patients and for the future of medical practice.

Around 10,500 doctors completed Waves 1 and 2 of the survey (in 2008 and 2009), and most have also completed Wave 3 (2010). We are now offering you the opportunity to join Wave 4 (2011). I hope you will consider participating as your views and experiences are vital to the success of the survey. Some results and publications relating to Waves 1 and 2 data are now available at: www.mabel.org.au

MABEL has been endorsed by 38 medical colleges and organisations (listed overleaf). A Policy Reference Group provides advice to us to ensure that the survey is relevant, and also assists with the implementation of results to ensure they will make a difference. For more details, please read the enclosed information about MABEL.

There are two ways to complete the survey:

- 1) Fill out the enclosed hardcopy survey and return it to the Melbourne Institute in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope, OR
- 2) Complete the survey online by logging in through our secure website www.mabel.org.au using the username and password below, *selecting* the survey relevant to your doctor status (including if different from the doctor-type we sent you) and following the simple instructions.

Username: <merge username> **Password:** <merge password>

If you have recently changed your professional status (e.g. you are no longer in training but are now a specialist), we may have sent you the wrong version of the questionnaire. If this is the case and you wish to do a paper version of the survey, please fax back the enclosed form and we will post the correct questionnaire to you, or contact our survey manager Anne Leahy by email (enquiries@mabel.org.au) or phone (03 8344 2600), quoting your username.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact our survey manager.

I sincerely hope you will participate in this major study by completing the MABEL survey. The research team looks forward to receiving your response. Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Professor Anthony Scott
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research

Endorsements

MABEL has been endorsed by the following organisations and professional bodies.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
Australasian College of Sports Physicians
Australian College of Remote and Rural Medicine
Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine
Australian Society of Anaesthetists
Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society
Australia and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine
Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
Australian Society of Nephrology
Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine
Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand
Australasian Society of Career Medical Officers
Australian Rheumatology Association
Australian Orthopaedic Association
Medical Oncology Group of Australia
Rural Doctors Association of Australia
Rural Health Workforce Australia
Australian Health Care and Hospitals Association
Australian Private Hospitals Association
Australian Medical Council
General Practice Registrars Australia Ltd
Australian General Practice Training
Australian General Practice Network
Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils
Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria
Postgraduate Medical Council of South Australia
Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Queensland
Postgraduate Medical Institute of Tasmania
Postgraduate Medical Institute of Western Australia
NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training