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Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life 2015

General Practitioner & GP Registrar

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Postgraduate Medical Institute of Tasmania Health Education and Training Institute NSW Australian Medical Council Limited







Space is provided at the end of this survey to make additional written comments. Please write responses in boxes provided using a dark pen. Check boxes can be ticked or crossed.

A	About your current situa	ation					
1.	Are you currently doing any clinical medical w	ork in Aust	ralia?				
	Yes – If yes, please go to Section B below	and comple	ete the main	SIIPVAV			
	No – Continue	and compr	tic the main	sai vey			
2.	Are you permanently retired from all types of	paid work?					
	Yes – As you are permanently retired from		f naid work vo	ou do not no	ad to comple	to the rost of t	ha curvav
	Please return this survey in the reply-paid						ne sui vey.
	No – Continue						
3.	Which of the following statements describe yo	ur current s	ituation? (Ti	ck all that ap	ply)		
	Doing medical work in Australia that is r			·		, committee w	ork)
	Maternity leave			3,	3,	,	
	Home duties/childcare						
	Enrolled as a student						
	Extended leave (e.g. sick leave, long serv	ice leave)					
	Working outside Australia in a clinical ro						
	Working outside Australia in a non-clinic	al, but medi	cal role				
	Working outside Australia in a non-media		_				
	Doing non-medical work in Australia. Ple	ase specify	occupation:				
4.	Do you intend to return to clinical medical wo	rk in Austra	lia?				
	Yes – Please go to Section G and comple	ete the final	two sections	of the surv	ey		
	Unsure – Please go to Section G and cor	nplete the fi	inal two secti	ons of the s	survey		
	No − As you do not intend returning to cli						e survey.
	Please return this survey in the reply-paid	enverope pr	oviueu. Tilalik	you for you	г рагисірано	111.	
	_						
B	About your job satisfacti	ion					
	g c c c g						
5.	Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied yo	u are with o	each of the v	arious aspe	cts of your w	vork as a doct	or.
		Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Not Sure	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N/A
	Freedom to choose your own method of workin	1 -	2	3	4	5	6
	Amount of variety in your work	9 <u> </u>	2	3	4	5	6
	Physical working conditions	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Opportunities to use your abilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Your colleagues and fellow workers	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Recognition you get for good work	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Your hours of work	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Your remuneration	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Amount of responsibility you are given	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Taking everything into consideration,						
	how do you feel about your work?	1	2	3	4	5	6

6.	6. Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.								
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A		
	The amount of work I delegate to other health professionals has increased in the past 12 months	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	The balance between my personal and professional commitments is about right	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	I have a poor support network of other doctors like me	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	It is difficult to take time off when I want to	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	I can take time off at short notice, for example if one of my children is ill or for a home emergency	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	My patients have unrealistic expectations about how I can help them	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	The majority of my patients have complex health and social problems	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Running my practice is stressful most of the time	: 1	2	3	4	5	6		
	The hours I work are unpredictable	' 🗆	2	3	4	5	6		
	I have good supervision/mentoring support	1 🔲	2	3	4	5	6		
	I often undertake tasks that somebody less qualified could do	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	I normally consult with others in the practice about the management of patients with complex health and social problems	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Formal structures are in place to encourage communication amongst practice staff (e.g. regular meetings)	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	My colleagues understand the need for work-life balance	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	I cannot work my preferred hours due to a lack of jobs offering those hours	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7.	Would you like to change your hours of work (in No Yes, I'd like to increase my hours Yes, I'd like to decrease my hours	cluding day	time and af	ter hours)?					
8.	Imagine you would like to reduce your hours of	work. How	achievable i	s this? (Tick	one box)				
	This could be achieved easily within my current job This could be achieved with some difficulty in my current job I would have to change jobs, but there are suitable opportunities in my local area Would have to change jobs, and such jobs are scarce This would be impossible Don't know								

C About the places where you work

9.	Excluding on-call, for how many HOURS in your MOST RECENT USUAL WEEK at work did you work in each of the following settings? (Include ALL of the work you do as a doctor) (If none, write 0)		
		Actual hours pe	er week
	Private medical practitioner's rooms or surgery		hrs/wk
	Community health centre or other state-run primary care organisation		hrs/wk
	Public hospital (including psychiatric hospital)		hrs/wk
	Private hospital		hrs/wk
	Residential/aged care health facility (nursing/residential home, hospice etc.)		hrs/wk
	Aboriginal health service		hrs/wk
	Government department, agency or defence forces		hrs/wk
	Tertiary education institution		hrs/wk
	Other		」hrs/wk
	TOTAL HOURS WORKED		hrs/wk
10.	How many GPs work in your current main practice? (Include yourself if applicable) (If none, write 0		De 1 (terr
	Full-tir	ne r	Part-time
	No. of males.	=	
	No. of females		
11.	How many other health workers or professionals are employed in your current main practice? (I	f none, write 0))
	No. of nurses	<u>_</u>	
	No. of allied health professionals	<u>_</u>	
	No. of administrative staff	<u>_</u>	
	No. of other staff	L	
12.	Is your current main practice co-located with other health or welfare professionals?		
	Yes		
	No No		
13	What is your business relationship with your current main practice? (Tick one box)		
	Principal or partner		
	2 Associate		
	Salaried employee (e.g. receive fixed annual salary & benefits with tax deducted)		
	Contracted employee (e.g. receive fixed payment per session or a % of billings before tax)		
	Locum		
	A		
	Other (please specify)		
14.	When did you start working at this practice?	Г	
	Month	L	
	Year		
15.	My opportunities for continuing medical education and professional development are:		
	Very limited		
	Average		
	Very good		
16.	Is your practice accredited?		
	Yes		
	² No		

17.	Does your practice claim the Practice Nurse Incentive Program payments?
	Yes
	No No
18.	Do you currently work in a hospital?
	Yes
	No—Go to question 23
19.	Have your working arrangements in this hospital changed since the last time you did the MABEL survey?
	Yes
	No—Go to question 23
20.	How are you paid for this hospital work?
	Fee-for-service/bill patients directly
	Fixed payment per session or hour
	Salary with rights to private practice
	Other (please specify)
21.	What is the main hospital in which you work (i.e. spend most time)?
	Hospital name
	Postcode
22.	How long have you worked at this hospital?
<i>LL</i> .	No. of years
	No. of months
	About your workload
	Tibout your workload
23	Excluding on-call, how many HOURS in your MOST RECENT USUAL WEEK at work did you spend on the
	following activities? (Include ALL of the work you do as a doctor in ALL jobs/workplaces) (If none, write 0)
	TOTAL HOURS WORKED PER WEEK (Should equal the TOTAL in question 9)
	Direct patient care (face-to-face, phone consultations, home visits: with or
	without a medical student present)
	Indirect patient care (medical notes, reports, phone calls, meeting patients' families) hrs/wk
	Education activities (teaching, research, continuing medical education)hrs/wk
	Management and administration
	Other
24.	In relation to education activities, are you involved in any of the following teaching or supervisory activities, including formal and informal teaching and supervision? (Tick all that apply)
	Teaching or supervising medical students
	Teaching or supervising interns and pre-vocational trainees
	Teaching or supervising GP registrars
	No, I am not involved in any teaching or supervision
25.	In relation to non-clinical activities OUTSIDE your usual place of work, are you currently involved in any of the
۷۵.	following activities? (Please tick all that apply)
	Elected office bearer (e.g. president, treasurer) or board member of a national or state-level professional organisation
	(e.g. the Australian Medical Association or a medical college).
	Committee member in a national or state-level professional organisation, advisory group and/or steering group.
	I am not currently involved in any of the activities listed above.

26.	Do you practise in any of the following areas? (Tick all that apply)
	Anaesthetics
	Obstetrics
	Surgery
	Emergency medicine
	None of the above
27.	Do you have a special interest in a specific area of clinical practice? (By 'special interest' we mean that you have advanced skills, training or knowledge in a particular field of practice, and/or you undertake procedures or provide services that are outside the normal scope of practice for GPs.) Yes No—Go to question 30
28.	If yes please indicate your main area of special interest practice. (Tick one box)
	Antenatal /Postnatal care
	Women's health
	Psychological medicine / Mental health
	Skin cancer / Dermatology
	5 Child / Young persons' health
	Sports medicine
	Other (please specify)
29.	Approximately what proportion of your overall clinical practice hours are accounted for by your main area of special interest practice? 1
30.	In your most recent USUAL week at work, for around HOW MANY patients did you provide care? (Include face-to-face, out-of-hours and telephone consultations in ALL SETTINGS) (If none, write 0) Total number of patients seen in private consulting rooms
	Total number of patients seen in hospital or other settings
31.	Excluding emergencies or urgent needs, for how many days does a patient typically have to wait for an appointment with: (Please write average number of days) You, their preferred doctor in the practice? days Any doctor in the practice? days
32.	How long does a NEW patient typically have to wait for an appointment in your practice? No. of days
	No. of days No. of weeks weeks
	Not taking new patients at present (Tick box)
	Not taking new patients at present (Tick box)
33.	How long does an average consultation last? (Please write number of minutes) mins
34.	Approximately what percentage of patients do you bulk bill/charge no co-payment? %
35.	What is your current fee for a standard (level B) consultation? (Include Medicare rebate and patient co-payment. Please write dollar amount; write 0 if you bulk bill 100% of your patients) \$
36.	Do you do any on-call yourself? (Including public holidays, weekends and weekdays outside of 8am to 6pm) Yes No—Go to question 40

37.	What are your on-call ratios for practice and hospital work?		
	(For example, 5 weeknights per fortnight equals 1 in 2)	Practice work	Hospital work
	1 weeknight in		
	1 weekend in		
	Not Applicable (Tick box)		
	Not Applicable (Tick box)		
38.	In your last usual week at work, how many TIMES were you actually called out? (If nor	ne, write 0)	
		Practice work	Hospital work
	Weeknights: times per week		
	Weekend: times per weekend		
	Not Applicable (Tick box)		
	Not rippineasie (Tiok Sox)		
39.	If your on-call arrangements do not fit the above descriptions, please elaborate below:		
40	Arranging a locum at short notice is usually: (Tick one box)		
	Moderately easy		
	Rather difficult		
	Very difficult		
	Not Applicable		
41.	Turning to time spent away from work: (If none, write 0)		
11.	How many WEEKS holiday did you take in the past year?		weeks
	How many WEEKS of parental or maternity leave did you take in the past year?		weeks
	Approximately how many DAYS off work due to illness did you have in the past year?		days
			days
	Approximately how many DAYS off work did you have for other reasons in the past year?		uays
42.	How many vacancies for GPs does your (main) practice currently have advertised or regis	tered	
	with a recruitment or workforce agency? (If none, write 0)		
	Number of vacancies		
	Number of these vacancies which have been unfilled for three months or more?		🖳
	Don't Know (Tick box)		
	Not Applicable (Tick box)		
13	About your finances		
	Tibout your infairces		
The	following information will be used to examine the effect of financial issues on you	ır work–life bal	ance,
	will remain strictly confidential.		,
43.	What are your (approximate) TOTAL PERSONAL earnings from ALL of the work you	lo as a doctor?	
	(If possible, base this on your last personal income tax return or payslip.) This should be your personal income tax return or payslip.)		er than total
	practice earnings. Please write in ONE COLUMN where you have the most accurate information a	nd can best remen	ıber.
	Annual OR	Fortn	ightly
	Before tax (gross earnings) \$		
	After tax (net earnings) \$		
4.4	To addition to this did on marine and active to the bind have Communication and active	:	. /
44.	In addition to this, did you receive any ongoing 'in kind' benefits or subsidies as part of y school fees, salary packaging)?	our current Job/	s (e.g. car, nouse,
	Yes 2		
	No		
45	What is the approximate annual total value in dollars of these benefits?		
.5.	(If zero, write 0)		

46.	What is the total level of financial debt that you currently have as a result of you (Give dollar amount; include HECS debt, other debt associated with training and living exp				traini	ng?
	\$					
	Don't Know (Tick box)					
47.	What is the total level of financial debt that you currently have from owning your (If zero, write 0)	r practic	e or pr	emises?		
	\$					
	Don't Know (Tick box)					
	Not Applicable (Tick box)					
8.	What is the status of your private practice for tax purposes?					
Ο.						
	Sole trader					
	☐ Partnership					
	Company					
	Trust					
	Don't Know					
	Not Applicable					
9.	In the last year, approximately what percentage of your total gross earnings from receive from each of the following sources? (Please enter percentage figure where a Payments from patients for services covered by Medicare			did you		
	(include Medicare rebate and patient co-payment)					%
	Payments from patients for services not covered by Medicare (e.g. insurance, certificates, private patients)					%
	Government incentive schemes and grants (e.g. rural incentives)				. 🖳	%
	Hospital work (salary and other payments)					%
	Other sources of medical income (specify source and %)					%
	TOTAL				10	0 %
0.	How much personal gross income, in addition to income from your medical work, year? (e.g. bank interest, dividend income, rental income and profit from busines	do you	receive	e from oth		ırces ea
	\$					
1.	Do you (or your employer) regularly contribute to a superannuation scheme?					
	Yes					
	No—Go to question 53					
2.	For how many years have you (and/or an employer on your behalf) contributed to	a super	annuat	ion scher	ne?	
	No. of years				L	
3.	Please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statement: "Giv situation and prospects, I believe I will have enough to live on when I retire". (Ti	-		financial		
	Strongly Disagree					
	² Disagree					
	3 Neutral					
	4 Agree					
	Strongly Agree					
4.	How much (in dollars) did you pay for professional medical liability, or malpractice, insurance premiums in the last year?					
	(If this was provided by someone else on your behalf, write 0)					

	_		Annual		OR	Fortnightly	
	Before tax (gross household income) \$						
	After tax (net household income) \$						
`	About your geographic lo	cation	:				
	Where is your main place of work?						
	Town/Suburb						
	Postcode						
	Where do you live?						
	Town/Suburb						
	Postcode						
	Please indicate the degree to which you agree o	or disagree	with the fol	lowing state	ements.		
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
	I don't have many friends or family members in my current work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	It is easy to pursue my hobbies and leisure interests in my current work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	My partner does not have many friends or family members in this work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	There are good employment opportunities for my partner in this work location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	The choice of schools for our children is adequate in this location	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Are you subject to restrictions on where you pra	ctise?					
	Yes—I am required to work in an Area of Yes—I am required to work in a District of		e Shortage				
	No—Go to question 61						
	Please indicate the reason/s for these restriction	15.					
	I hold a Permanent Resident Visa						
	I hold a Temporary Resident Visa						
	I am undertaking a return of service period				olarship or E	Bonded Medica	l Place
	I am undertaking a compulsory rural place Other	ment as pa	art of my tra	uning			
	Not Applicable						
	Do you travel to provide services/clinics in other	geographi	c areas?				
	Yes	J					
	No – Go to question 63						
	Where are you providing these services? Please	list up to 1	three locatio	ons below.			
	The second secon		wn/Suburb			Posto	code
	Location 1						
	Location 2						
	Location 3						

G	About your family circumstances
63.	Are you currently living with a partner or spouse? Yes No
64.	What is the employment status of your partner/spouse?
	Not in the labour force (e.g. caring for dependents, studying) Currently seeking work Full-time employment Part-time employment Not Applicable
65.	How many dependent children do you have? (If none, write 0 and skip the next two questions)
66.	What is the age in years of each dependent child? Not Applicable (Tick box) Child 1. Child 2. Child 3. Child 4. Child 5. Child 5.
67.	Which of the following forms of childcare are you using for your children of pre-school age? (Please tick all that apply)
	Relatives or friends Nannies Childcare at work (i.e. provided by an employer) Other day care (childcare centre, family day care, kindergarten etc.) Not Applicable
68.	Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.
	Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Agree N/A
	I am restricted in my employment and/or the time and hours I work due to a lack of available childcare
	My partner is restricted in his/her employment and/or the time and hours worked due to a lack of available childcare
	My partner is overqualified for his/her current job due to the limited availability of suitable jobs 3 4 5 6
H 69.	About you If you completed your medical degree in Australia, were you an international student (i.e. were you a citizen of a country outside of Australia and New Zealand)?
	Yes No Salana and New Zealand): Yes No Salana and New Zealand):
70.	If you completed your medical degree outside of Australia: What year did you first arrive in Australia? In what year were you first registered to work as a doctor in Australia? Not Applicable (Tick box)

71.	Do you have medical qualifications from overse	eas which are	e NOT recogni	ised in Austra	lia?		
	Yes						
	² No						
	³ Unsure						
72	Please indicate all NEW medical qualification	s that you ha	ve completed	in the last 12	months		
		Number of					
		qualifications		Names	of qualification	ons	
	Masters degree						
	PhD						
	Postgraduate diploma/certificate						
	Fellowship of college						
73.	Do you have a research-based degree from me For example: BSc(Med)(Hons),BSc(Hons), M Yes No		in addition to	your primary	medical qua	alification?	
74.	Please indicate how many other health and no in the last 12 months. No. of qualifications		·			Australia	
75							
75.	If you are a new GP Registrar this year: In what year do you expect to complete the pro	ogram and be	come a Fellow	ı?			
	Are you training in your preferred specialty? (F						
	Not Applicable (Tick box)						
76	What is your residency status? (Tick one box)						
70.	Australian citizen						
	Permanent resident						
	Temporary resident						
77		2 (5)					
11.	What type of medical registration do you have	! (Please tick	all that apply)				
	General registration Specialist registration						
	Provisional registration						
	Limited registration						
	Non-practising registration						
78.	In general, would you say your health is: (Tick	one box)					
	Excellent	30,,,					
	² Very good						
	3 Good						
	⁴ Fair						
	Poor						
79.	All things considered, how satisfied are you wi	th your life i	n general? (Ti	ck one box)			
	Completely Dissatisfied						Completely Satisfied
	1 2 3 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1 2 3 4	5	6	7	8	9	10

— 11 —

GP8C

80.	0. This question asks about everyday risk-taking in relation to different types of activities.									
How likely are you to engage in each of the following activities (with a score of 1 being 'very unlikely'										
	and 5 being 'very likely')?		Very unlikely 1	2	3	4	Very likely 5			
	Financial risks (e.g. investments with an uncertain	outcome)	1	2	3	4	5			
	Career and professional risks (e.g. publicly challeng your professional colleagues)	ging	1	2	3	4	5			
	Clinical risks (e.g. recommending a treatment whice to your usual practice or is controversial)	h is new	1	2	3	4	5			
81.	The personal life events listed below can have an For each statement below, please indicate 'YES' of 12 months. For each statement you answer 'YES',	or 'NO' as to please ind	o whether you licate how lon	g ago the eve If 'YES', pl O to 3	the event ent occurred ease indicate I 4 to 6	during the pa d or commen now long ago it h 7 to 9	nappened. 10 to 12			
	Serious personal injury or illness to self	No	Yes ²	months ago	months ago	months ago	4 ago			
	Serious personal injury or illness to a close relative or family member	1	2	1	2	3	4			
	Death of spouse or child	<u>'</u>	2	1	2	3	4			
	Death of other close relative or family member (e.g. parent or sibling)	1	2	1	2	3	4			
	Death of a close friend	ī	2	1	2	3	4			
	Victim of physical violence (e.g. assault)	1	2	1 -	2	3	4			
	Victim of a property crime (e.g. theft, housebreaking)	יר	2	1	2	3	4			
	Named as defendant in a medical negligence claim	' H	2	1	2	3	4			
83.	Thank you for completing the survey. Please	se provido	e any furthe	r comment	s below.					
	In case of loss of included reply-paid envelope, please forward survey to: Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research – MABEL Survey Reply Paid 84574 UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VIC 3010									

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