

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: 13 February 2025

Renewed government funding for doctor and medical student mental health and wellbeing welcomed

Drs4Drs welcomes the Australian Government's renewed funding for the 'Every Doctor Every Setting' (EDES) Action Plan for initiatives to improve the mental health and wellbeing for doctors, medical trainees and medical students.

At a time when there is a renewed lens on the needs of doctors, doctors in training and medical students in workplaces, the EDES Action Plan, developed by the National Doctors Health and Wellbeing Leadership Alliance (NLA), addresses the mental health and safety of doctors, and medical students. This plan sets national priorities for action across the sector, ensuring quality patient care.

Target areas include improving training and work environments to reduce risks to mental health and wellbeing, increasing the capacity of the sector to respond to doctors and medical trainees needing support and strengthening the support provided to doctors and medical students impacted by mental ill-health.

The funding also supports the Drs4Drs '1300 Dr4Drs' national, 24/7 telehealth service — designed specifically for doctors, medical students and their families who are struggling with their mental health.

The confidential service provides access to psychologists and counsellors and dovetails with a network of state and territory peer-to-peer doctors' health support services supported by the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and coordinated by Drs4Drs.

Acknowledging the importance of the renewed funding in supporting the work of Drs4Drs, Chair of the Board of Drs4Drs, Dr Iain Dunlop said

"We welcome the Department of Health and Aged Care's timely and continuing support which recognises the valuable work of our stakeholders and the needs of doctors and medical students who might otherwise be lost to our health system."

"We were established by the medical profession, for doctors, medical students and their families, and look forward to continuing this important work"

"Ensuring there are peer supported, effective services for doctors, doctors in training and medical students helps them in their most challenging moments, but also makes our health system more resilient."

To learn more about the NLA and the EDES Action Plan, please visit: www.everydoctoreverysetting.org.au

To learn more about 1300 Dr4Drs, please visit: www.drs4drs.com.au/getting-help#telecounselling

- ENDS -

For more information:

Helen Blencowe, EDES Program Manager, Drs4Drs

0432 395 106 | hblencowe@drs4drs.com.au

Available for comment:

Pamela Spoons, Executive Director, Drs4Drs

0414 297 057 | pamspoons@drs4drs.com.au

Dr Iain Dunlop, Board Chair, Drs4Drs

About Drs4Drs

Drs4Drs is a national charitable organisation dedicated to delivering programs that support the wellbeing of doctors and medical students, established in 2015 as an independent subsidiary company of Australian Medical Association (AMA).

Governed by an independent Board of Directors our mission is to support doctors and medical students in caring for themselves, their peers, and their patients. By offering resources and support, Drs4Drs strives to facilitate timely access to medical assistance and encourage proactive health and wellness practices. We are committed to advocating for a healthier medical workforce and fostering a culture that prioritises the health and wellbeing of doctors and students.

<https://www.drs4drs.com.au/>

About AMA

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is the peak professional body for doctors in Australia.

The AMA promotes and protects the professional interests of doctors and the healthcare needs of patients and communities.

Representing doctors, the AMA works with governments to develop and influence health policy to provide the best outcomes for doctors, their patients, and the community.

The AMA represents and supports all Australian doctors and medical students. We are member-run and led, fighting for fairness and equality, and lobbying and campaigning on the issues affecting the medical profession.

<https://www.ama.com.au/>