

# FINAL YEAR STUDENTS TO BOOST COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

# COVID-19 FACT SHEET

## NSW Government using all resources in effort to combat coronavirus pandemic.

Final year medical students will take on new, supervised roles in NSW hospitals under a \$12.7 million initiative to boost the medical workforce if needed during the pandemic.

The NSW Government is working with universities across the state to identify around 200 final year medical students who can be made available to work in non-COVID hospital wards, if required, to free up existing staff to care for COVID-19 cases.

### READY FOR ANYTHING

The frontline fighters tackling COVID-19, the fantastic doctors and nurses in NSW, overcome enormous challenges every day but it is critical to take extra steps to ensure the medical workforce is ready for anything during the pandemic.

Any spike in COVID-19 cases would put pressure on the state's hospital system so the NSW Government has partnered with universities to have recruits on standby to support hospital medical staff if the need arises.

These students already have a good understanding of the NSW health system, having participated in placements since their degrees began.

The students will be well prepared to provide additional support if needed.

### HOW IT WILL WORK

Final year medical students, who opt in and are assessed as having the skills to undertake the role, will be employed by Local Health Districts as Assistants in Medicine. These are new positions, requiring the students to carry out a range of tasks including admitting and reviewing patients and performing procedures such as taking blood.

They will be deployed to hospitals across the state that need support, and will work under supervision as part of a medical team providing patient care in non-COVID wards.

The NSW Government is delivering \$800 million extra funding for NSW Health to help boost ICU capacity and purchase additional services and medical equipment.

### CONTINUING EFFORT

This announcement comes on top of previous efforts to boost the health workforce, such as the Australian Government's moves to allow international students studying relevant medical courses to be exempt from the usual 40-hour per fortnight work limit if they are working in support of coronavirus health efforts and at the direction of the relevant health authority.

International students currently working for registered disability service providers were also made exempt.

## Fast facts...

- The NSW Government is working with universities to identify final year medical students who can join the frontline fight against the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.
- About 200 students are being sought to be employed by Local Health Districts as Assistants in Medicine.
- The students will be deployed to hospitals across the state that need support, and will work under supervision as part of a medical team providing patient care in non-COVID wards.
- The NSW Government is delivering \$800 million extra funding for NSW Health to help boost ICU capacity and purchase additional services and medical equipment.