



Steve Irons MP

Federal Member for Swan

MEDIA RELEASE

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Curtin University Medical School a win for medical students and a win for Western Australia: Irons

Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons today welcomed Prime Minister Tony Abbott's announcement that the Federal Coalition Government will invest \$20 million in a new Curtin University Medical School to address the health workforce needs of Western Australia.

"I have been working with Curtin University over the past five years to secure State and Federal Government funding for this important initiative which will address WA's doctor shortage across the State, and particularly in rural and regional areas, through the degrees strong emphasis on primary care," Mr Irons said.

"Western Australia continues to struggle with a shortage of about 1,000 medical practitioners when compared to the national average and has an over-reliance on overseas trained doctors, with 38.2 per cent of registrations compared to the national average of 26 per cent."

Mr Irons said although the medical school had been criticised by the Australian Medical Association, many prominent people in the medical fraternity including Fiona Woods and Fiona Stanley had expressed their support for the initiative.

"The key difference between Curtin University's medical school and that of other medical degrees is its focus on addressing those areas of health care where medical professionals are currently lacking," Mr Irons said.

"The five-year undergraduate degree will specifically focus on such areas as mental health, primary care, chronic disease and ageing which are in vital need of service support.

"I am pleased this important initiative has come to fruition for the benefit of Western Australia's health care future, the benefit of Curtin University and the benefit of the wider Swan community."

The medical school will commence in 2017 with 60 student places per annum increasing to 120 (110 domestic and 10 international students) by 2022.

In partnership, the Western Australian Government and the University will be providing all capital funding for the establishment of the new medical school, while the State Government will also provide new clinical training and supervision, internships and specialist training places for all students of the new school

The Commonwealth will contribute through the funding of new medical Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for the school from 2019-20.