



## 2018, a proud year to be a medical student

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> Jibi is the President of the NZMSA and a fifth-year medical student at the University of Auckland, Taranaki Campus. He is an undergraduate student originally from Oamaru, who has served on the New Zealand Medical Students Association (NZMSA) executive since 2015. Jibi is also a member of the Doctors in Training Council, the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) board and serves the Ministry of Health as a member of the Professional Behaviours Taskforce and Medical Workforce Advisory Group. Outside of medicine, he enjoys letting off some steam on the sports field as a keen footballer and cricketer.

Reviewing our progress this year as a national student body is a matter entailed with immense satisfaction and pride. This year we have achieved significant milestones in the areas of both advocacy and representation. These were manifested in the form of our successful campaign extending the equivalent full-time student (EFTS) cap for our membership and establishing a student position with full voting privileges on the board of the NZMA. This further strengthened our purpose of uniting, representing, and empowering the medical students of New Zealand.

Our most publicised victory this year has been the extension of the EFTS cap to ten EFTSs. This was a matter that affected a significant proportion of our whānau in a rather personal manner, with many having to seek out various forms of financial support. We had been campaigning on this issue for a number of years and after a mammoth effort by the entire student body in 2015, we managed to convince the National party to extend the cap from seven to eight EFTSs. At the time this showed that our efforts were not going astray, unfortunately it still left a significant number with financial stress to confront. Our membership requested further work on this issue and we heeded the call as we amped up our campaign into the next phase. Our prime window of opportunity came with the 2017 general election, where the Labour party promised to meet our expectations in their successful bid for government. We were disappointed to see that cap remain unchanged at the 2018 budget and we retaliated accordingly through our media contacts. Following this, we engaged in further discussion with the appropriate government offices and we proudly announced that our long campaign had been successful, as the government confirmed an extension to ten EFTSs in July this year.

Another major area of progress for medical students in 2018 has been the establishment of a student representative with full voting privileges on the board of our national Medical Association. This achievement marks a giant leap for medical student representation in advocating for

health matters of national significance. As members of the NZMSA, we are also all members of the NZMA and in the past our voice in the operations of our parent organisation has been limited to the voice of our president on the Doctors in Training Council (DiTC). In recent times the importance of having our voice heard and protected at the board table became apparent. Through the diplomatic diligence of our senior leaders we were proud to announce the establishment of a permanent student voice for the board. In particular, the work of former presidents Liz Berryman and Kieran Bunn on this matter must be applauded. I would also like to acknowledge the DiTC for their support, and NZMA themselves for taking this step to ensure student representation on this frontier. It is a privilege to be our first student representative in this capacity and I look forward to embarking on this journey with the rest of the NZMA board.

We also proudly announced the winners of the inaugural New Zealand Teaching awards earlier this year at our annual conference. This award is an example of our growing partnership with senior organisations, and was an excellent way to recognise the best clinical teachers we have in our medical community. We wish to acknowledge all the fantastic teachers and leaders we have in our community, and want to encourage everyone to grow and aspire to be a positive force in the development of one another as future doctors, teachers, and leaders within the health workforce.

This year we also continued to be a strong voice within the Ministry of Health. Our roles with Health Workforce NZ and the Professional Behaviours Taskforce continue to be important areas moving forward. This year we continued to advocate for the availability of postgraduate year one jobs for our domestic graduates and were proud to see that all but one domestic graduate received an Advanced Choice of Employment match in the first round of offers. We have also been

discussing the implementation of a new reporting system for bullying in hospitals for University of Auckland students. More information on this will be announced in due course.

Finally, the reason 2018 has been so incredibly successful is due to each and every medical student that unites to form what is the NZMSA. As medical students we are amongst the most privileged students in this country, and I believe the vast majority of us uphold our title as medical students with true integrity and pride. Our reputation is paramount to our success as a collective body. The way we act and interact with our colleagues and patients in all the hospitals scattered throughout the country is what gives us this reputation and the privilege of such a powerful voice. Continue serving our title, and our voice will only continue to be strengthened.

It has been a pleasure to be your national president for 2018, and I look forward to seeing what 2019 holds for us all.



*Pictured: Jibi Kunnetedam – President NZMSA, Dr Aaron Ooi – RMO award winner, Dr Helen Pike – SMO award winner, Dr Kate Baddock – Chair NZMA.*

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