

MEDIA RELEASE



Tel: (07) 3872 2222

Monday 7 September 2009

MEDIA STATEMENT FROM AMA QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT DR MASON STEVENSON

AMA Queensland's priority has and always will be the safety and wellbeing of its members and the patients they care for.

AMA Queensland championed the safe hours campaign for our junior doctors and worked in partnership with Queensland Health on the alert doctor's on standby strategy.

We know the dangers of doctor fatigue which is why we are working to reduce it.

The current Medical Officer's Certified Agreement Number 2 (MOCA 2) between Queensland Health and the Queensland Public Sector Union (QPSU) has been signed off by both.

MOCA 2 addresses safe hours with a reduction in the maximum hours of duty a Resident Medical Officer (RMO) will be required to work from the current 16 hours to 14 hours within a year and 12 hours within two years.

This staggered introduction allows for workable rosters given there will be an influx of graduate doctors coming into the system progressively over the next two years.

We will be providing AMA Queensland's salaried doctor members with information on both the YES and the NO case so that they can make an informed decision when they are asked to vote.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak health organisation which exists to advance the professional interests of doctors and the health of the community. It is an independent organisation which represents 5500 doctors - public and private specialists and general practitioners.

**Sequel Communications Shari Armistead (07) 3251 8134 or Mobile: 0434 313 066
AMA Queensland Andrea Howe (07) 3872 2221 or Mobile: 0400 110 565**

AMA Queensland

Doctors dedicated to the health of all Queenslanders