



MEDIA RELEASE

Support for Striking ACC Medical Advisors.

27 July 2018

The NZRDA* supports the 39 ACC medical advisors walking off the job in a series of five rolling stoppages over the next four weeks.

The role of these senior medical officers in assessing medical claims for the ACC is essential in ensuring the smooth running and success of the ACC scheme. These medical officers have been negotiating their pay conditions with ACC since the end of last year to which their claims have been denied. This has driven them to take industrial action in order to be heard.

The NZRDA views the doctor's claims for an annual 1% salary increase, a redundancy agreement which matches other ACC employees and a statement included in their agreement about the importance of staff well-being, as extremely reasonable. It agrees with Lloyd Woods statement that "it's a mystery why this is such a problem for ACC, given its role as a government agency promoting prevention, care and recovery".

NZRDA National Secretary, Dr Deborah Powell has stated that "as a key future stakeholder group, the next generation of senior medical officers' are not viewing ACCs treatment towards its current staff well."

Dr Deborah Powell
National Secretary
New Zealand Resident Doctors' Association
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Resident Doctors

Resident doctors (RMOs, or Resident Medical Officers) are registered medical practitioners, and range in experience from first-year qualified doctors to those with more than 12 years' experience. They primarily work in the public sector, where they are employed by all 20 District Health Boards.

Resident doctors staff New Zealand's public hospital system, delivering 24/7 care to patients, and also utilise this time to gain specialist qualifications as surgeons, physicians, paediatricians, etc.

Resident doctors are also employed in general practice as GP trainees; however, these doctors are not involved in this dispute as they are not DHB employees.

*the union which represents Resident Doctors in New Zealand