



MEDIA RELEASE

Resident Doctors' issue notice of strike action for the new year 31 December 2018

Notice of industrial action was issued by NZRDA today, in support of securing renewal of the Resident Doctors National Collective Agreement which expired nearly a year ago on 28 February 2018. Strike action is scheduled to commence at 0700hrs on January 15, 2019 and continue for a 48 hour period.

“Despite a year of bargaining, the employers delayed tabling claims until September, 9 months after bargaining began” says Dr Courtney Brown, National President of NZRDA, “and when they did, they were after numerous claw backs to Resident Doctors terms and conditions of employment.”

Despite a further 3 months of bargaining significant claw backs remain on the table.

“Whilst in 2018 most health workers gained improvements to terms and conditions of employment without facing claw backs, the DHBs have taken a distinctly different approach to Resident Doctors. It feels like they are punishing us for our successful safer hours campaign.” says Dr Brown.

“Resident doctors are a particularly vulnerable workforce due to the mobile nature of their employment, moving regularly and frequently between DHBs as part of their training. With each move they are technically new employees, and without an RDA MECA to provide protection to terms and conditions of employment, they are literally at the mercy of different terms and conditions being imposed.” says Dr Brown.

NZRDA remains available to attend mediation with the DHBs to negotiate settlement to the dispute ahead of any strike action occurring.

Dr Courtney Brown
National President

Dr Deborah Powell
National Secretary
Phone 021 614 040

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.