



## **NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday 24 January 2019

#### **DHB's Reject NZRDA Attempt to Avoid Strikes**

The DHBs rejected attempts by the NZRDA in mediation today to resolve the dispute and avoid further strike action.

NZRDA made a number of suggestions to resolve the impasse:

1. For the DHBs to withdraw their clawbacks and rollover the current contract with the standard salary adjustments that are being offered to all health practitioners (effectively 3% per annum over 4 years); and
2. NZRDA offered a change to the safer hours provision that would allow more flexible rostering (whilst maintaining the key safety components); and
3. Suggested accepting the offer from the outgoing chair of the Medical Council of NZ to assist with working through any issues that may still arise; and
4. Invited the DHBs to join an initiative between ASMS (the union representing SMOs) and NZRDA to address any unintended consequences of schedule 10 (the safer hours provision).

"In effect, we took every claim off the table but that was not enough. Whilst the DHBs will offer the same pay rise as others have received in health, they will only do so if NZRDA gives up existing provisions that protect RMOs" said David Munro, Senior Advocate for NZRDA.

"We are beyond frustrated at the fixed position of the DHBs demanding we give up essential clauses in our contract that safeguard our members and now have no alternative but to continue on with planned strike action" says David Munro.

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## **Resident Doctors and Senior Medical Officers**

Resident Doctors are also known as RMOs or Resident Medical Officers. The term SMO (Senior Medical Officer) is the equivalent term for Senior Doctors or consultants working in NZ's public health system. Resident doctors are registered medical practitioners ranging from new graduates fresh out of medical school through to vocationally registered GPs and SMOs. They can be a resident doctor for up to 13 years, during which time they continue with postgraduate training in specialist fields such as GP, paediatrics, surgery, pathology, and so on. Once they complete this additional training they become GPs or SMOs.