



NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Resident Doctors' strike to go ahead after mediation fails

On the 9th and 10th of January the NZRDA and the DHBs met for mediated bargaining. Despite the NZRDA hoping to reach an agreement that would prevent the need for an RMO strike, all the DHBs' clawbacks remained on the table. The DHB team persisted with clawbacks removing the protection of the union, exposing vulnerable RMOs to disruptive and dangerous work conditions.

"It is disappointing and frustrating that we are being forced to strike just to keep our terms and conditions," says Dr Courtney Brown, NZRDA President. "The DHBs' position means RMOs could be moved to any hospital in the country as the DHBs see fit. RMOs could be required to work for more than 16 hours in a row, without guarantee of rest or safety. RMOs could lose access to education and training, jeopardising the quality of care we are able to deliver to our patients, and a whole lot more."

The NZRDA has no other option to ensure these protections continue. We acknowledge and appreciate the support of New Zealanders. Thank you for supporting us so that we can continue to care for you.

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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.