
All District Health Boards

8 March 2019

DHBs open to further talks with junior doctors

DHBs are disappointed the Resident Doctors' Association cut short mediation in Auckland yesterday.

Spokesperson David Meates says DHBs made a number of suggestions to settle the deadlocked negotiations and address RDA concerns, but they have been rejected.

"It is important to repeat that we are not seeking claw backs, pay cuts or forcing trainee doctors to work excessive hours.

"Our proposal does however involve the union giving up its ability to veto rosters and training arrangements agreed at a DHB level, and that's still the main sticking point.

"DHBs are responsible and accountable for patient care in their area – how best to provide that care is a decision for clinicians and the Chief Executive at a local level, not the RDA.

"No other union in the health sector has the ability to control work arrangements to the same extent, and our offer is based on the same change process applying to more than 70 thousand DHB employees."

Mr Meates says DHBs want a solution that meets the needs of patients and resident medical officers (RMOs). At its heart is the ability for clinicians at a local level to determine how best to look after patients, manage training and arrange work while protecting the rights of doctors in training.

"We are committed to safe rosters for RMOs, but it is important local teams can decide rosters that work for them. The new pay deal with the other RMO union, STONZ, is evidence there are other ways to address the needs of trainee doctors as well as the DHBs.

"We remain ready to talk and will reach out to the RDA," says Mr Meates.

ENDS

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