



The world will probably remember 2009 as the year of the Global Economic Meltdown. While the financial and consumer markets suffer ripples and waves that will change the lives of billions, there is the potential in New Zealand for far reaching changes to be made to the practice of medicine for doctors in training. These changes are of a different scale to the GEM, but may have significant consequences for how we work on a daily basis for years to come.

### **Medical Training Board**

After making a submission to the Medical Training Board we are waiting to hear how much impact we have had on the process. Any changes the board suggest are likely to have significant impact on how we practice in the future. The MTB report is due out soon and hopefully will contain positive moves to increase support to all RMOs and doctors in training.

### **Director General of Health's RMO commission**

The DiTC have followed up our submission with a meeting with the Chair of the RMO commission Don Hunn re-emphasising our position about how valuable RMOs are and how important high quality training opportunities are to retaining and recruiting our excellent doctors. We are awaiting the reports from both the Commission and the MTB – the delays being likely due to the complexity of the issue that these bodies are trying to address.

### **“Voluntary bonding”**

This is a very significant announcement by the government in its first 100 day agenda. It has the potential to decrease the impact of debt on graduates who choose to work in geographical regions of shortage. It is likely that the places one can work and the specialties which are included will evolve over time. If you are considering working in a “hard to staff area” we suggest checking out the details on:

<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/bonding> No one factor will solve the workforce problems we face, but this is a step in the right direction.

### **RMO member survey**

Keep an eye on your in-boxes. We are reviewing services that we provide to our DiT members and will be asking for your opinions – let us know what you think. We are also planning some exciting changes to our DiT section of the NZMA webpage. If you haven't done so for a while, check it out on <http://www.nzma.org.nz/about/DITC.html>

### **Get involved with the DiTC**

Each year we have elections for DiTC council members. As elected representatives the DiTC works for its members. Look out for a call for elections in the middle of the year.

**Got an Issue?**

Let us know, we have members of the DiTC from Auckland to Dunedin and are always keen to hear from members with ideas about how we can do better or who have an issue that they are concerned about.

Email us at: [ditc@nzma.org.nz](mailto:ditc@nzma.org.nz)

<http://www.nzma.org.nz/ditc/>

