

Standard in Focus

Standard 7.3: Intern Participation in governance of their training

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- **7.3.1:** *Interns are involved in the governance of their training*

The governance of an Intern Training Program includes all the systems, policies, procedures and work instructions that provide structure, authority and decision-making responsibility to a program. In Queensland, programs typically establish a Medical Education Committee (MEC) of some design that is charged with the responsibility of overseeing all the various components of a program and making decisions based on the evidence presented to them. To ensure that such a committee is fully aware of the issues within a program, it is incumbent on the Medical Education Unit (MEU) to provide that data to the committee. This data should come in the form of analysed reports based on the evaluation data collected by the MEU, e.g., end of term evaluations, FEP evaluations, orientation evaluations, results of interviews, focus groups etc. A program's governance committee should be made up of a range of individuals with the interest, commitment, and positional authority to enact the decisions made by the committee.

Principles of good governance ensure that there are clear lines of responsibility, authority, and processes, as well as representation from key groups of stakeholders. As such, it is vital that interns participate in the governance of their training. It is necessary for interns to take part in MEC meetings and that established mechanisms exist for all interns to communicate their ideas, opinions and issues in a safe manner. Of equal importance is that interns are informed of business and decisions of the governance committee, even if they are not taking part in the meetings. This is the responsibility of the MEU to ensure that these channels of communication exist and work the way they are intended (Standard 7.4).