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Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Northern Territory Welcomes Apology

Yesterday, ASMOF NT were invited to a meeting between Doctors-in-Training (DiT) at Royal Darwin Hospital, and the hospital executive.

There were around 100 DiTs, and the hospital executive was represented by Dr Feekery (the author of the original letter), and A/Prof Palmer.

ASMOF NT were very happy to hear Dr Feekery apologise for his letter from the 3rd of October, and retract it in full.

A/Professor Palmer and the executive team listened to the grievances of the DiT group. There was acknowledgement that currently some parts of the health service do not provide adequate training opportunities, rostering practices and leave availability need improving, and that there are problems with the recruitment process for new doctors.

The executive team have agreed to meet further with DiTs to fully understand and rectify these issues. The executive also offered support to include some of these areas within the Enterprise Agreement which is currently being negotiated. ASMOF NT looks forward to working collaboratively with A/Professor Palmer and the hospital executive.

Following the meeting, Dr Thomas Fowles (ASMOF President) said "We're pleased that Dr Feekery has withdrawn and apologised for his initial letter regarding resignations. It was reassuring to see A/Professor Palmer engage with front-line doctors and recognise that improvements need to be made, we consider this an excellent first step.

We will continue to watch for improvements to the working conditions of doctors. Territorians deserve excellent health care, and that can only be provided if we have a stable and professional medical workforce."

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