Reviewer’s report

Title: Where do students from different disciplines want to work?

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2009

Reviewer: Adrian Dr Schoo

Reviewer’s report:

Major

In the introduction and discussion sections of the paper relevant publications have been omitted. Inclusion of student tracking studies in Western Australia, South Australian and Victoria, and Tasmania would have enhanced the paper and possibly changed its scope.

The method section does not make reference to statistical tests used.

Table 2 reports average scores out of five. Given the nature of the data (non-parametric), this is not correct and should be reported as modes. Also, it would have been of interest to report on the modes of the variables used between the disciplines.

The paper need to include a discussion section with sufficient discussion. Differences between public and private sector could be explored, particularly between disciplines (medical students do encounter private practice during their placement or may even be placed in private practice). There could have been differences between disciplines in relation to location decisions because financial factors and career options are less relevant for some disciplines.

Drawing on omitted papers would have enhanced the paper and validated some of the findings, for example, on students of Asian descent.

Minor

Abstract. Background is rather vague. There is no purpose of the study included. More participant information could have been provided.

The title of the paper suggests more in depth reporting and discussion on differences between disciplines than that the paper currently offers.

Table 1 would be more meaningful by reporting on rurality.

The last sentence of ‘Conclusions’ is not adequately supported by the data or the discussion around the results.

Discretionary

Figures 2, 3 and 4 do not separate per discipline. Comparison between
disciplines would be of interest and in line with the title of the paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.