



Fiji doctors to get overseas internship

By Online Editor

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Fiji's graduate doctors will now be able to go on attachments overseas in their area of professional interest, it has been revealed.

This, as part of the Health Ministry's strategy to retain local doctors and avoid the brain drain.

In an interview with FijiLive news, Health Minister, Dr Neil Sharma says doctors will be given short term attachments in countries such as India, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Sharma said the Ministry has set aside a certain amount of money from their budget where they can send these doctors for training.

“There's a certain amount of money that we have set aside for this and at the end of their attachment, they can come back to Fiji with all their experience and treat our local patients,”

Dr Sharma said although we cannot stop doctors from leaving our shores, the ministry can however offer them a better incentive where they can be recognised for their work.

“All I can do is evolve the system from its current one and interest them into staying. For our young medical students.

I could give them a job and an opportunity and a choice to learn from the more seasoned and experienced doctors,” the minister said.

In a statement released earlier, Health Ministry spokesman, Peni Namotu said this was to serve the purpose of nurturing professionals and enhance professional retention within the Fiji health service.

“Those who aim to continue will return and work for one year as trainee registrars. Their commitment, standards and professional character will be assessed. In the second year they will be allowed to progress into a post graduate diploma programme while continuing clinical work,” Namotu said.

If successful, candidates will proceed into the Masters programme for a further two years.

Effectively at the end of the sixth year post internship they will have a Masters degree and within the next three years they will proceed to consultancy within their chosen discipline.

SOURCE: FIJI LIVE/PACNEWSFiji doctors to get overseas internship

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