



**International Medical Workforce Collaborative Conference
Edinburgh, Scotland, 16th – 20th September 2008**

Guideline - Equity, Poverty and Access

Lead: Australia

Overview

The following provides a guide to preparing your paper for the *Equity, poverty and access according to need* session. As a guide, we suggest that each of the papers covers the following sections – overview, background, focus and research questions, discussion of the findings and issues for the future. It should also be noted that these issues apply to urban as well as rural settings.

Background

To date, much of workforce planning for health has focussed on the requirement for absolute workforce numbers, perhaps in relation to a specific workforce, e.g. doctors, nurses, allied health professions, etc. Little note has been taken of the need to distribute the workforce so that there is equitable access to the services provided by it to patients. In this session the focus will be on access and equity to health services, particularly in terms of workforce planning which has a direct relationship to the availability of services and fair access to them. Please ensure you briefly describe the scope of what is to be covered in your paper including any areas that are difficult to address and why.

Research Questions

Overview of recent research in the area

Summarise relevant recent research from your own country on equity, poverty and access to health services according to need and outline the scope of the paper.

Methods and data sources

Explain the measures of equity, poverty and need (such as health status) used and briefly summarise the information sources available to examine equity, poverty and access for the medical workforce in your own country. Discuss the methods you or others have used to explore this issue. If possible and appropriate it may be helpful to relate this paper to the paper from your country in the modelling of demand session (Saturday morning).

Equity, poverty and access

Describe innovations in estimation of equity, poverty and access. Present the findings about factors which are related to the distribution of the medical workforce and discuss their implications in terms of access to care and how they relate to the need for medical services.

Discuss the drivers of access such as distance, socioeconomic disadvantage and health status. Highlight any significant issues raised and discuss how the distribution of the medical workforce relates to other health workforces.

Discussion of the findings and issues for the future

Discuss the impact of equity, poverty and access, policies designed to overcome limited access (both economic and distributional), the perceived need for further policy development and strategies for the future.

References

To be developed by authors.

