

# Centre for Research Excellence in Medical Workforce Dynamics

Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life (MABEL)

## Overview and future directions

Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life (MABEL)



FACULTY OF  
BUSINESS &  
ECONOMICS



MELBOURNE INSTITUTE®  
of Applied Economic and Social Research



MONASH University  
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

# Aims of the CRE


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- To conduct research into the medical workforce using the MABEL survey
- To find ways to improve knowledge exchange between researchers and end-users
- To build capacity in health workforce research

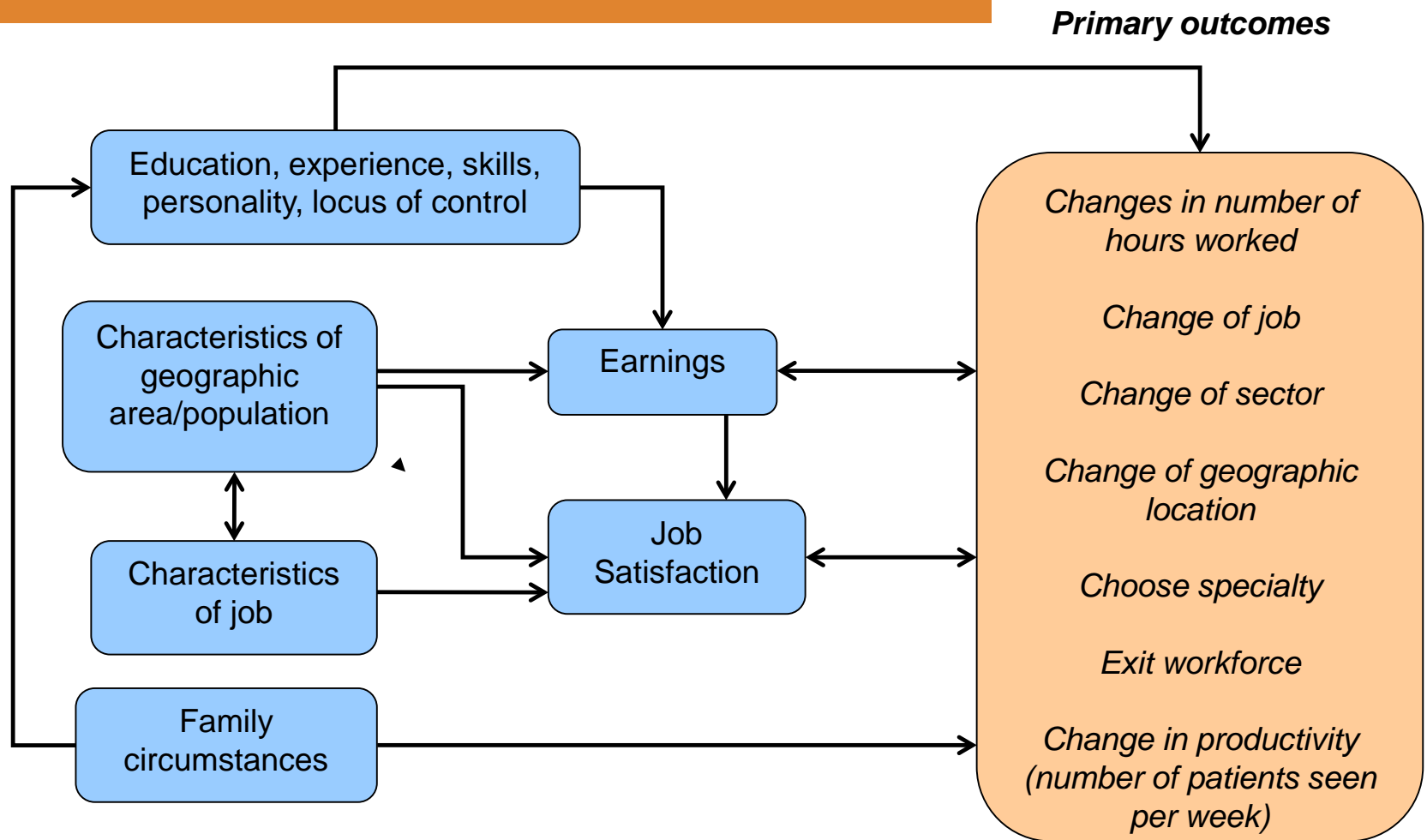
# Funding

- 2007-2011. NHMRC Health Services Research Grant. \$2.1m
- 2012-2016. NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence, \$2.49m
- Additional funding from Department of Health (in 2008) and Health Workforce Australia (in 2013)
- Nine annual waves of the MABEL Survey (2008-2016)
- Additional grants, fellowships, contract research
  - 2 ARC Discovery Grants on competition in medical labour markets
  - 1 ARC Discovery grant on health professional migration

# Why a survey?

- Not about counting or describing
- Interested in understanding *why* doctors make labour supply decisions
  - Essential for policy design
  - Association  Causality
  - Need a range of information
  - Need a panel / longitudinal survey

# MABEL Conceptual Framework

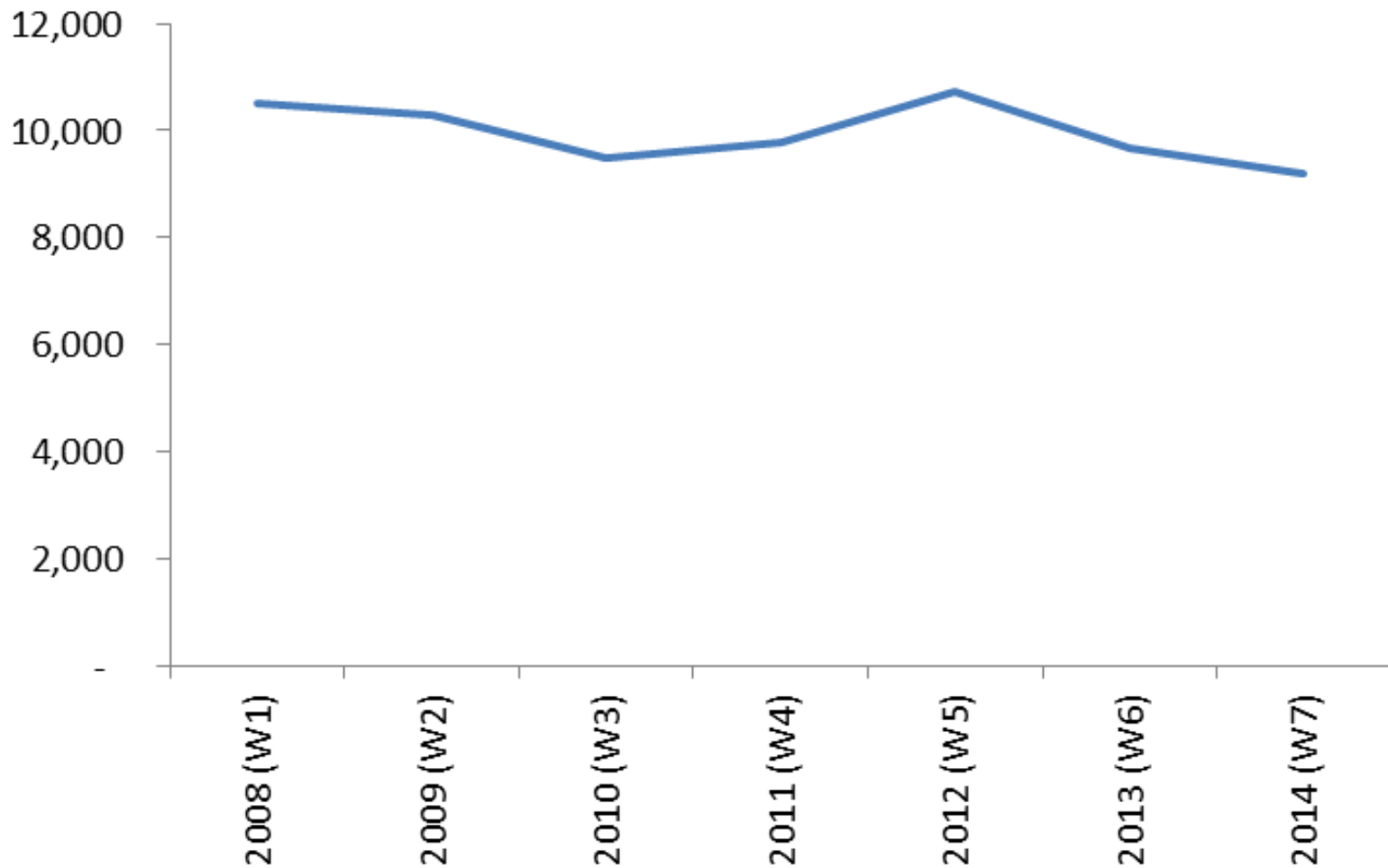


# Survey administration

- Wave 1 (2008) All docs in clinical practice (~60,000)
- Mailed letter with option to fill out online
- Each subsequent wave
  - Invite all previous respondents
  - PLUS all new to the workforce
- Almost 80,000 completed surveys since 2008



# Number of respondents



# Where are we up to?

Released	Data cleaning and preparation	In the field
Wave 1 – 2008	Wave 8 – 2015	Wave 9 – 2016
Wave 2 – 2009		
Wave 3 – 2010		
Wave 4 – 2011		
Wave 5 – 2012		
Wave 6 – 2013		
Wave 7 – 2014		





# Research capacity building

- 2 completed PhDs
- 3 current PhD students in progress
- 22 members of the research team since 2008
- Data access:
  - De-identified unit record data for all available Waves
  - Comprehensive user manual
  - Application process and MOU
  - >130 external users
  - 15-20 new applications per year

# Outputs

- Academic
  - 40 peer reviewed articles
  - 30 reports and other publications
  - 95 conference presentations or invited seminars
  - 37 publications and presentations from external users
- Impact
  - Media coverage
  - 2-3 contacts per month from end-users (eg Royal Colleges, Govt)
  - MABEL data used to design Modified Monash Model, used to allocate rural incentive funding to GPs.

# Future of MABEL.....

- New NHMRC CRE application unsuccessful
  - Survey in 2017 (Wave 10) in doubt
  - Currently examining funding strategy/options
- New research area - treatment/clinical decisions
- Examine low value care / quality of care
  - Biennial clinical questionnaire (quality of care, vignettes/DCEs in low value care, referral decisions)
  - MBS/PBS data linkage
  - BEACH data linkage

