

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

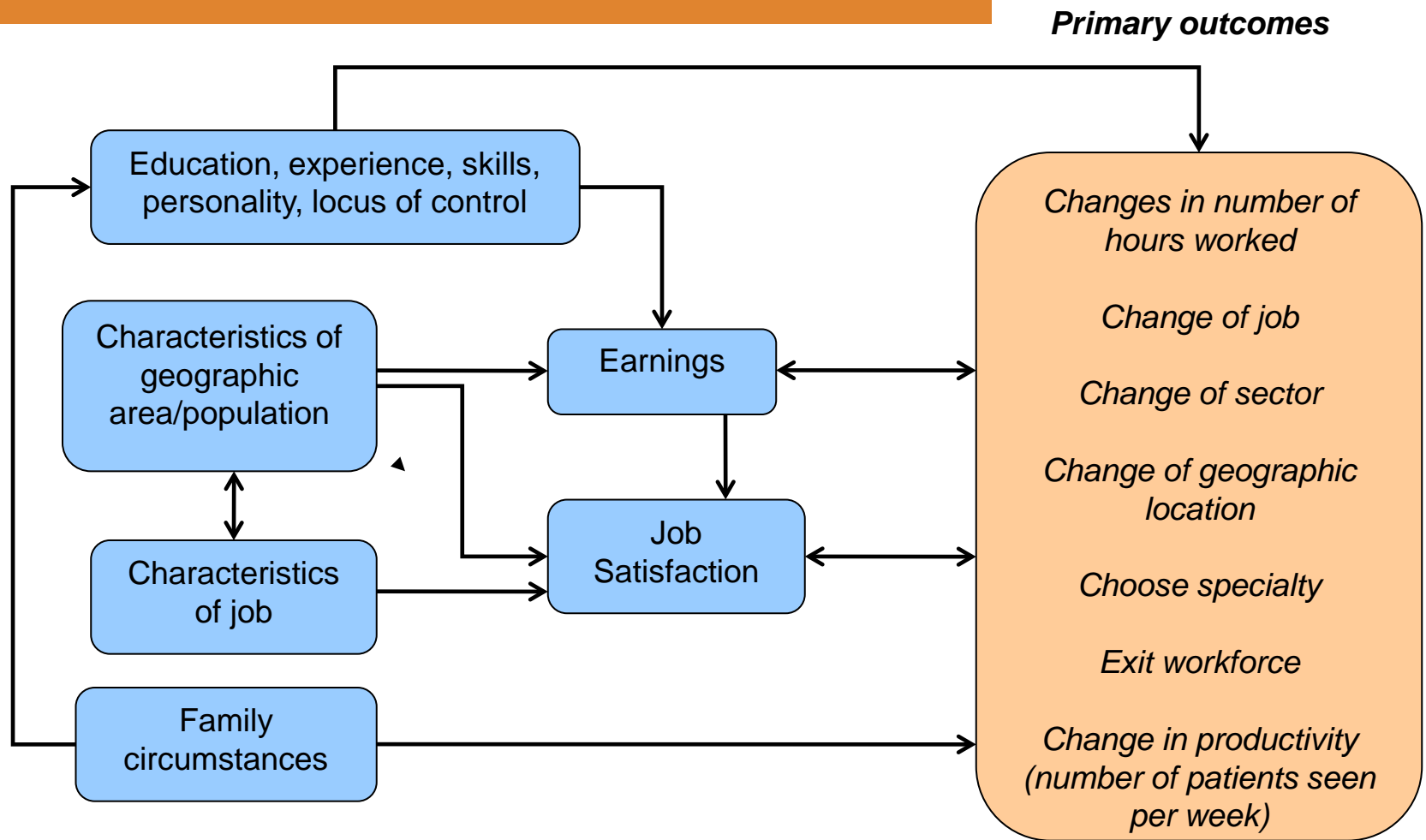
# Funding

- 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 HWA (in 2013)
- Nine annual waves of the MABEL Survey
- 2 FTE research fellows

# 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

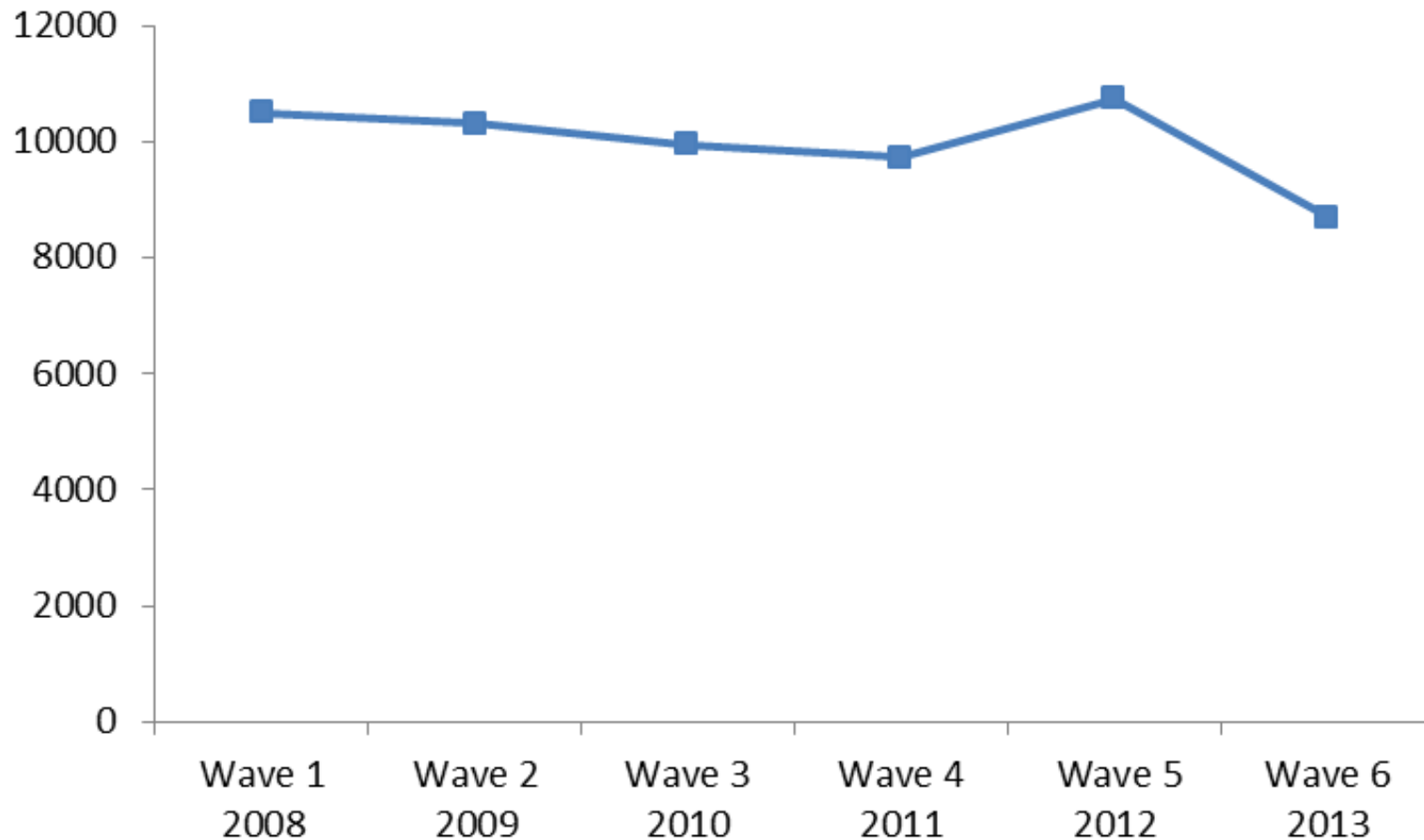


# Where are we up to?

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

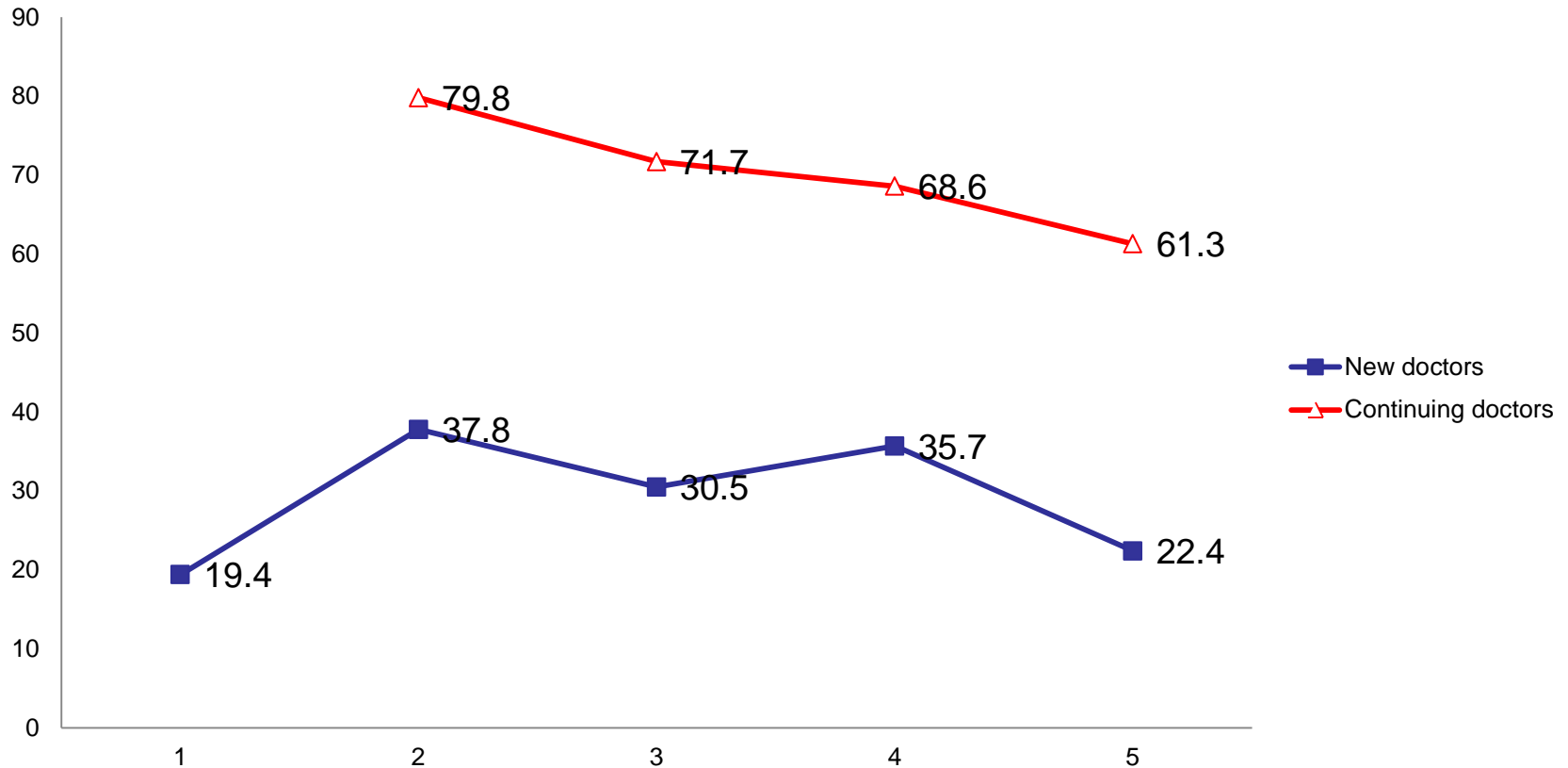


# Number of respondents



# Wave by wave response rates

Overall response rates of continuing and new doctors (%)





# Engagement and impact



Around 3 enquiries per month

## Type of request

Request for information/data	21
Submit evidence/consult/provide expert advice	11
3 <sup>rd</sup> party use (citation in report)	8
Other	5
Invitation to speak	4

## Type of organisation

Other (media, university, individual)	22
Endorsing organisation	13
Govt dept	10
Govt agency	4

# Research capacity building: data access

- Data access:
  - De-identified unit record data for all available Waves
  - Comprehensive user manual
  - Application process and MOU
  - Over 103 data users across 51 applications
- MABEL in Maps



# National Centre for Geographic & Resource Analysis in Primary Health Care

ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment

National Centre for Geographic Resources & Analysis in Primary Health Care (GRAPHIC) - HealthLandscape Australia V4.0 (BETA)

[Help / User Guide](#)

[Email GRAPHIC](#)

S+ S= S-

Map Data Chart Graph

GRAPHIC Regional Mapping Tool

Search for a place on the map

Draw Print Tools Share

GRAPHIC Regional Mapping Tool



### Select Group/Category

MABEL Practice Profiles (Means) [hide list](#)

- Practice Sizes [about](#)
- Dr-Nurse Ratios [about](#)
- Patients / week [about](#)
- Consultation Time [about](#)
- Wait-Preferred GP [about](#)
- Wait-Any GP [about](#)
- Practice Profile ALL Indicators [about](#)

MABEL - GP Profiles [hide list](#)

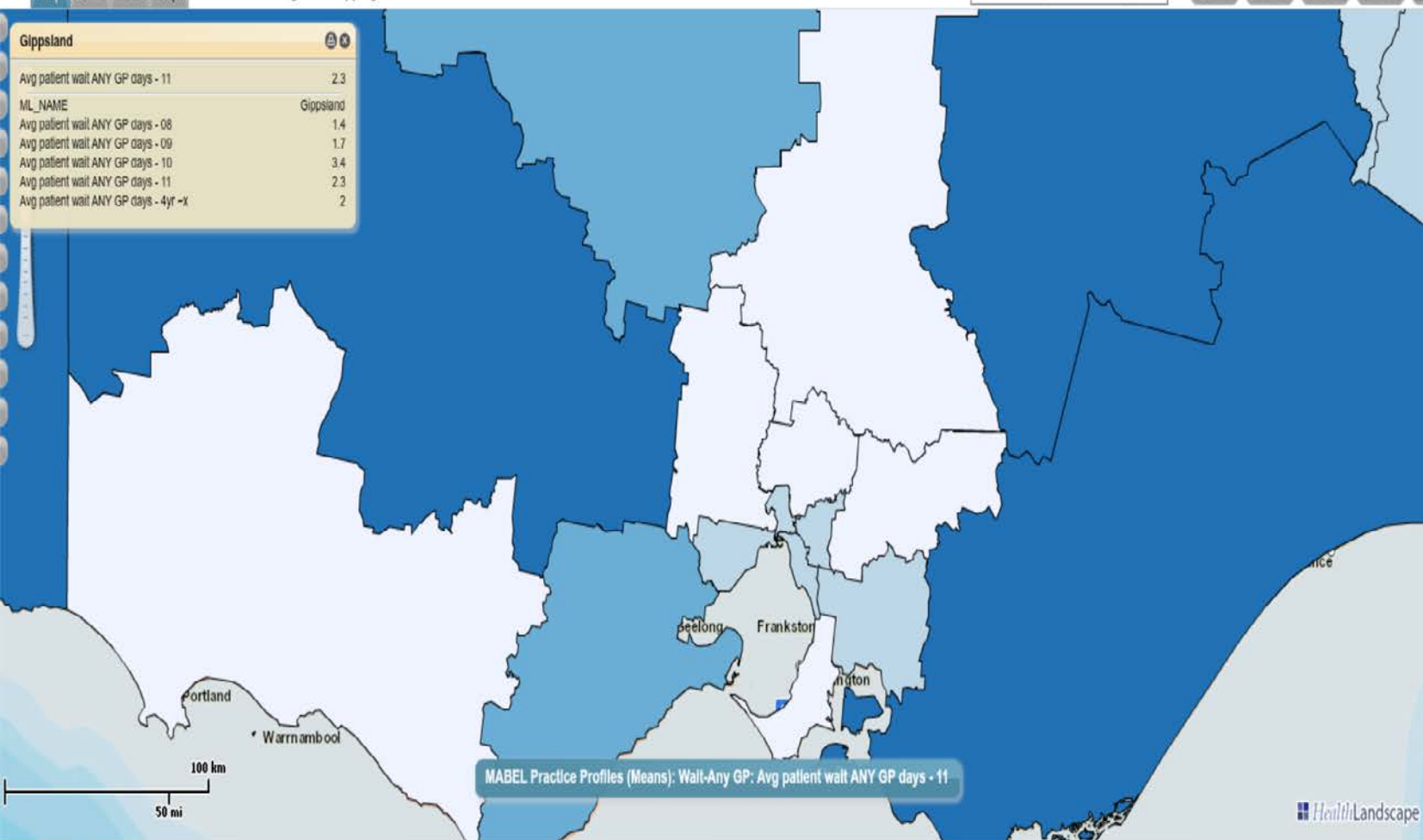
- % GP - Males [about](#)
- % GP - Females [about](#)
- % GP - Age lt 35 [about](#)

### Basemaps and Optional Layers

#### Layer Controls

[Login And Account Settings](#)

[Map Gallery](#)  
Coming Soon



Gippsland	
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 11	2.3
ML_NAME	Gippsland
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 08	1.4
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 09	1.7
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 10	3.4
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 11	2.3
Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 4yr -x	2

MABEL Practice Profiles (Means): Wait-Any GP: Avg patient wait ANY GP days - 11

Legend **All**

Show As  Thematic  Threshold

Color Scheme: Quantitative Palette:

Number of Categories: 4 Distribution: Quantile



# Other outputs

- 31 peer reviewed publications
- 24 reports and other publications
- 84 conference presentations or invited seminars
- 22 publications and presentations from external users
- Media coverage

# Future Challenges

- Funding beyond 2016
- Response rates and attrition
- Use of MABEL data
- Impact on policy

# Highlights

- 1 PhD student completion
  - ‘In harm's way: workplace aggression in Australian clinical medical practice’. Danny Hills
- 1 PhD student submitted
  - ‘Locational Choice of General Practitioners: Exploring Supply, Mobility, and Equity in Australia’. Michelle McIsaac
- Mason Review and Monash Model
- World Bank work