

RURAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES



Response to *Medical Board of Australia Public consultation: Proposal for the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the Medical Board of Australia (the Board) public consultation for the application by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for Rural Generalist Medicine to be recognised as a new field of specialty practice in general practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

Introduction

This response is a collective response from the Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs). In addition to this response, we look forward to participating in hearings and/or further consultation associated with further development of Rural Generalist Medicine recognition as a field of specialty practice in general practice. Please find our contact details at the end of this document.

Key messages from the Rural Workforce Agencies:

The Rural Workforce Agencies support the application by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for Rural Generalist Medicine to be recognised as a new field of specialty practice in general practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The Rural Workforce Agencies have participated in working groups and various forums, including the establishment of Rural generalist coordination units, and providing commentary and advice to supporting activities to this point.

The Rural Workforce Agencies recognise the positive contribution of Rural Generalism, particularly in Queensland to date, and the success in supporting the delivery of community access to hospital based services. The Rural Workforce Agencies are supportive of government's efforts (and this application) to align scope of practice and underlying funding mechanisms. In addition, we note the positive contributions and focus of Services for Australian Rural & Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) with the [Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway](#), and activities aligned with supporting allied health rural generalism, and the focus on enhancing community access to health services.

Rural Workforce Agencies

- Rural Workforce Agencies (RWAs) are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to deliver a range of activities to address the access, quality and sustainability of the rural health workforce. Rural Workforce Agencies operate in each state and the Northern Territory and for 25 years have delivered a comprehensive range of health workforce programs and services in rural and regional Australia. In doing so, Rural Workforce Agencies have established and maintained collaborative working arrangements and networks with key health workforce stakeholders in rural and regional Australia. These stakeholders include Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Primary Health Networks (PHNs), local communities and local health services, university medical and health faculties, Rural Training Hubs, jurisdictional health departments and other key organisations.
- Rural Workforce Agencies have a unique track record and experience in supporting communities and working with stakeholders to address health workforce shortages, and assisting the rural health workforce. Rural Workforce Agencies are not-for-profit agencies whose singular focus is on ensuring remote, rural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have access to highly skilled health professionals when and where they need them, now and into the future.
- Rural Workforce Agencies are uniquely placed to understand local community's health workforce needs - including conducting an annual health workforce needs assessment – and to work with communities to explore and identify innovative workforce models to support improved access, quality and sustainability of health workforce, to support improved health outcomes.

RURAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES



Contact details

For further information, please contact:

Peter Barns, Network Chair



RWA
NETWORK
Rural Workforce Agencies

rwanetwork.com.au