

From: Brynnie
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine
Date: Tuesday, 12 December 2023 12:23:29 PM
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Dear AHPRA Executive Officer and Committee of Review

I am writing to express my support for the joint-application to have Rural Generalist Medicine recognised as a specialist field within General Practice.

While I am the Community Member of the Board of Directors of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), I am writing this submission as a private person and member of ACRRM's Community Reference Group.

I live in a rural area of the [REDACTED], where many properties are also remote. A significant number of older people live in this region, as well as families with young children. Access to primary health care is a significant challenge, with extensive travel required. We are impacted by the extraordinary environment that we live in which brings physical, emotional and psychological impacts due to isolation and distances involved, the effects of climate change (drought, bushfires, floods)...many of us are farmers, graziers, or simply people living on the land providing services locally and remotely. Quality health care is urgently needed, and in short supply. Doctors working in the bush trained by ACRRM have additional training to provide the care required, and merit the designation of Rural Generalist.

Rural Generalists are comprehensively trained to provide as much care close to home as they safely can to avoid the tyranny of distance to achieve quality care; traveling long distances to cities for care can be life-threatening, costly and at times impossible due to climate events. Rural generalists provide the quality of care that goes beyond care often provided by urban counterparts as it is needed to address the kinds of emergencies we face or simply day-to-day care required by people living in the bush.

National recognition of the training and professional standards of care that Rural Generalists provide will promote recognition by the profession and the community of the extensive quality of care given by doctors working in rural and remote regions. It will also provide the current Rural Generalist workforce with appropriate acknowledgement and compensation reflecting their actual training and scope and inspire a future generation of doctors choosing to work in rural and remote environments where there is unfortunately a shortage of doctors. We expect that national specialist recognition will enable structural change, credentialing, employment and workforce planning to support doctors in the bush. It will also support strengthening resources and building models of care around their full scope of service.

Personally, and on behalf of my community in the [REDACTED]

Region, I urge you to approve the designation of Rural Generalist to acknowledge the training and requirements of serving communities in rural and remote Australia.

With deep regard

Brynnie

Brynnie Goodwill

[Redacted signature block]

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I pay my respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways and acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.