



# Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges

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## **Re: Consultation on the Recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine**

We write in support of the joint-application to have Rural Generalist Medicine recognised as a specialist field within General Practice.

The Committee believes it is imperative that more be done to improve access to care for people living in remote and rural areas including for the First Nations communities in these areas.

It is recognised that addressing these issues will take a multifaceted approach involving the efforts of all medical colleges. We believe, however, that a strong Rural Generalist workforce represents an important aspect of reform that can contribute to system change and improve access to high quality care.

The Rural Generalist model seeks to train doctors to provide as much quality-assured care close to home as they safely can, to meet patient needs in areas without easy access to many non-GP specialist services. Importantly, the people in remote and rural communities most likely to rely on the local care that can be provided through this broad practice scope, are those with the most disadvantage who cannot afford or have considerable difficulty in traveling to cities for care.

Rural Generalists can contribute to the best possible services to remote and rural communities where they are can collaborate effectively with specialists from other colleges, whether it be through shared rosters, team-based digital health, or effective collaborative care with consultant specialists, in which they provide the most possible patient care locally, between consultant appointments.

We expect that national specialist recognition will appropriately acknowledge these doctors and their competencies and will facilitate system change by enabling employment and planning to fully incorporate them and to build models of care making best use of their scope of service.

We anticipate that Recognition will help to optimise the contribution these doctors are able to make and to contribute generally to a stronger national network of doctors to service rural and remote communities into the future.

Yours sincerely,



**A/Prof Sanjay Jeganathan**

Chair,  
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