

20 December 2023

Dr Anne Tonkin AO
Chair
Medical Board of Australia
medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr Tonkin AO,

Re: Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG; the College) is pleased to support the joint application by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACCRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) for Rural Generalist Medicine to be recognised as a new field of specialty practice in general practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, outlined as Option 1 in the application.

The College sincerely recognises and acknowledges the importance of Rural Generalists and specifically, the need for a specialist qualification in this field. RANZCOG is therefore, in full support of Option 1 of this application. The importance of rural health remains a key goal for the College and RANZCOG believes that regardless of geographic location, all patients have the right to safe equitable access to specialist care.

The recognition of Rural Generalist as a new field of specialty practice in general practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law is an important step towards long term, sustainable delivery of healthcare in rural and remote Australia.

Recognising Rural Generalist Medicine as a specialised field is supported by strong arguments and evidence. This acknowledgment, under National Law, would have positive effects, improving the status of practitioners and promoting tailored training for rural healthcare challenges. It could also help attract and keep healthcare professionals in underserved areas, enhancing overall healthcare in rural and remote communities. The proposed regulatory measures for Rural Generalist Medicine demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing the unique healthcare and workforce shortage needs of rural populations.

Should the Medical Board of Australia wish to discuss the above feedback, I can be contacted via email at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dr Gillian Gibson
President

Cc

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