



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

12 December 2023

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Medical Board of Australia  
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Dear sir/madam

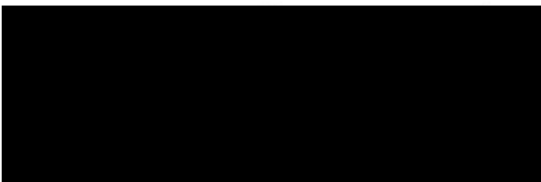
### **Application for recognition of a new field of specialty practice: Rural Generalist Medicine**

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Guild) supports all health practitioners working to their full scope of practice, including general practitioners. We understand the additional problems faced by all health providers who work in rural and remote locations, however we recommend that all practitioners must be trained, prepared and supported to deliver optimum care to their full scope in any setting. This will help relieve the pressure on the health system as a whole and better enable the movement of health professionals between regions.

Rather than recognising a Rural Generalist as a specialty practice of general practice, the Guild recommends that all general practitioners should be trained and supported to provide this higher level of care. This should be complemented by training and supporting other health practitioners such as pharmacists, nurses and physiotherapists to be able to do more within their scopes of practice.

Pharmacists and other health practitioners can do more within their scope of practice to relieve the pressure within the health system to provide general practitioners with a greater capacity to provide the comprehensive general practice and emergency care being proposed for this specialty practice in any region. This would have benefit as much to urban locations as rural and remote locations by better enabling the primary health workforce as a whole to distribute the health system workload and particularly reduce the pressures on our hospital systems.

Yours sincerely



Gerard Benedet  
*Executive Director*

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