

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine
Date: Saturday, 21 October 2023 11:01:22 AM

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Dear Medical Board of Australia,

As a long term resident of regional Australia and a current medical student, I am writing to support the application for the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as a new field of specialty practice.

When I decided to retrain in medicine in order to support my community while working in a challenging and rewarding profession, I discovered the innumerable barriers that remain for regional Australians seeking medical education.

From travelling over 2,000 kilometres to the city to sit the GAMSAT medical school entrance exam, to then relocating my family including uprooting my kids and their schooling; just getting in to med school was incredibly challenging when coming from regional Australia.

After two years in the city I am directly experiencing the effect of city-centric medical training leading inevitably to roots being put down, steering my life away from returning to my hometown.

Fortunately the Rural Clinical School [REDACTED] is allowing me to continue my training back in my hometown, without which I would become tied to the city and lost to the bush.

Along with these many aspects of medical training steering students away from rural medicine, the discussion of which medical specialty is a hot topic among my university peers. When imagining which path to take our hard-won future careers down, the status of the specialty and support offered plays a significant role in those early decisions.

With the many barriers to future doctors choosing rural medicine existing at every stage of their training, it is essential that the importance of Rural Generalism be recognised as a new field of specialty practice.

This is not just to improve the training and support of specialist doctors desperately needed in rural Australia, but also to signal to student doctors that Rural Generalism is an important and respected specialty where they will be valued and supported, despite the many challenges.

I hope you find in favour of the application and in that way support regional Australian communities and the doctors who work there.

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