SUBMISSION to the consultation on RECOGNITION OF RURAL GENERALIST MEDICINE

Dr Anne Tonkin
Chair Medical Board of Australia
Level 7, 111 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

7 December 2023

Contact Annabelle Brayley Storyteller



As an Australian who lives in a remote area, I am writing to fiercely support the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine (RGM) as a specialist field.

Too many rural and remote Australians don't have equitable access to appropriate health care and the situation has been deteriorating in recent years.

We **know** that the advanced skills training embedded in Rural Generalists training (especially those trained by ACRRM) will enhance the standard of care available to rural and remote Australians for several reasons including:

- Added confidence and skills capacity for staff within rural/remote medical teams
- Easier access (geographically) for r/r Australians to more focused and specialist face to face consultation
- Increased confidence in the skills of available medical teams for r/r Australians
- More effective access to specialist emergency care especially when RG's ASTs are anaesthetics, emergency medicine or O&G
- Better supervision opportunities for doctors wanting to train as RGs in rural/remote locations = more doctors likely to choose RGM
- Much more attractive professional pathways for doctors considering future careers in rural/remote
- Much more attractive choices for young rural and remote Australians considering medicine as a future career pathway.

I believe this will be a significant step towards addressing the workforce crisis in MMM 3-7 which, in turn, will improve access to appropriate health care for rural/remote Australians.

Yours sincerely

