

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine
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Dear Medical Board,

Thank you for opening consultations for the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine.

In my time as a registrar I have worked in many environments throughout Australia, from cities to remote hospitals and practices. I have found that the Rural Generalist is a different kind of doctor. He or she not only practices a different kind of medicine, which often includes surgical or anaesthetic interventions, but is a different kind of person. The Rural Generalist is, more often than not, a pillar of the community, humble, kind, and integral to the town itself. It was this unique and inspirational combination of character and practice that gave me direction in the whirlpool of choices in the life of a junior doctor, and it is the inspirational Rural Generalists I have met along my journey that I wish to emulate.

This unique area of medicine has very sadly been unrecognised for decades, and I believe that all of Australia has suffered as a result. Few people understand what it means to be a flexible and adaptable practitioner, who works in a low resource environment, and who's character and conduct strongly contributes to the background tone of the town over many years. A key part of this misunderstanding is rooted in the poverty of language within the medical community to identify these doctors. When young doctors do not understand a specialty, and it is not recognised by their peers, they are understandably less likely to choose it. Rural Australia is forced to accept poorer health outcomes as a result, and cities become overcrowded with specialists competing with each other for recognition in an overserviced landscape.

We live in a beautiful and unique country, not without its struggles and inequalities, but incredibly fortunate overall. Our population is scattered and diverse, over distances that visitors find jaw dropping. Our geo-social circumstances necessitates a doctor who can cross into the wilder parts of our land, to help individuals who are no less deserving of the care, life, and second chances that medicine brings. That doctor is the Rural Generalist.

I would like to strongly encourage you to positively and formally recognise the Rural Generalist as a speciality, and in doing so, I believe you will build a more beautiful tomorrow for generations of Australians to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Dr. Django Nathan

Registrar (ACRRM)

Bachelor of Science (Molecular Biology and Genetics) [REDACTED]

Bachelor of Medicine [REDACTED]

Bachelor of Surgery [REDACTED]