



# THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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8 December 2023

Dr Anne Tonkin AO  
Medical Board of Australia  
GPO Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Email: [medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au)

Dear Dr Tonkin,

**RE: ACD submission to public consultation on the proposal for the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as a new field of specialty practice in general practice**

On behalf of the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD), thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the application by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for Rural Generalist Medicine to be recognised as a new field of specialty practice in general practice under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law ('National Law').

ACD is supportive of the proposal that 'Rural General Medicine' be approved as a new field of specialty practice as outlined in Option 1 and for the title 'Specialist Rural Generalist' to become a protected title under the National Law.

We note that it is envisaged that recognition as a specific field of specialty practice will act as an important attraction measure supporting the expansion and retention of a robust rural general workforce. This will also make it easier for other health practitioners, employers and the public to be able to distinguish 'Rural Generalists' from other GPs and non-GP specialists as well as providing assurance that Rural Generalists have been trained to an approved and nationally consistent standard.

In noting that the delivery of training in advanced skills to GPs will continue to be aligned to community need, we would like to take the opportunity to highlight the significant need for advanced skills in dermatology including skin cancer care to meet the needs of many rural and remote communities, alongside investment in the dermatologist workforce. It is important that patients can receive safe high-quality care close to home, that they can be appropriately referred to a dermatologist when specialist care is needed, and that there is the capacity for ongoing care to then be provided locally, with the support of a dermatologist where needed. It is critical that these advanced skills are underpinned by high quality training and standards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] Director, Policy, Advocacy and Engagement at [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Dr Haley Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer