



REMOTE AUSTRALIANS MATTER 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

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Contact
Judy Treloar
Secretary, Remote Australians Matter
[REDACTED]

About Us

Remote Australians Matter Ltd (RAM) is an independent, grassroots community organisation focusing specifically on remote/very remote areas.

RAM empowers and encourages remote Australians to join and participate in the conversations and decision making that will improve and deliver them equitable access to appropriate health care.

We aim to promote the formation of new place-based models of Primary Health Care that are well-funded, innovative, equitable and sustainable by encouraging and assisting community members to actively participate in the design and development of models of care that meet their particular needs.

REMOTE AUSTRALIANS MATTER Ltd Submission

Like their urban counterparts, remote Australians deserve easy, affordable and timely access to the highest standard of primary health care.

It is well documented that remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the remote poor and the remote aged, collectively record the lowest health status in the country. It is these same people who typically cannot afford trips to cities for specialist care, who do not have strong social supports available to sustain them when receiving treatment in the cities, and/or who experience major cultural stress from being separated from their rural/remote community.

There are considerable health benefits to offering as many advanced and procedural skilled services in the remote context as is safely possible. The Rural Generalist workforce is especially important to the healthcare of these people.

Recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as a specialist qualification will ensure that remote Australians who have access to appropriate co-ordinated healthcare, can have confidence that the doctor in their healthcare team has the advanced skills and aptitudes to address their health care needs.

Added to that, the opportunity for general practitioners to be proceduralists is highly valued and is important to attracting and retaining them in remote communities.

Remote Australians Matter supports all measures that will improve the health and wellbeing of all members of the Australia's remote communities.