

From: Helen Craig
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation on the recognition of Rural generalist medicine
Date: Saturday, 4 November 2023 9:44:51 AM

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Dear Anne,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the joint application from the two GP colleges to recognise Rural Generalist medicine as a field of specialty within General Practice.

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand is fully supportive of this application and therefore **support Option 1** in your Public Consultation paper.

Rural Generalists play a vital role in the provision of healthcare to those living in the more rural and remote areas of Australia and there is a clear need to grow this important workforce. As you might be aware, our survey of final year students consistently shows a strong level of interest from students in pursuing a career working outside our capital cities – with our [most recent data](#) showing 38% of students expressing that preference (40% of domestic students and 30% of international).

In addition, the data from the last 2 years (i.e., the graduates of the 2021 and 2022 final-year cohorts) shows that **Rural Generalism is a growing preference for domestic graduates**. For the 2022 graduate, it was the eighth-most preferred specialty for domestic students at 6.5% (increasing from 5.0% the previous year).

We believe that having Rural Generalist recognised as a distinct specialty of general practice will only enhance medical schools' work to foster our graduates' interest in pursuing a career in this much needed workforce.

We will leave it to those better placed than we to provide feedback on the other aspects highlighted in your consultation paper.

Kind regards

Helen Craig

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Medical Deans acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands, seas and waters where we live and work and their connection to community. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging