

## Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine

As a (too) busy rural GP Obstetrician, I would support the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as its' own specialty within General Practice.

The role of the rural GP, especially with advanced skills such as mine, is very demanding, absolutely necessary, but not often well supported. There is a persistent gap between recognition that we are needed, and the respect that we merit. We are seen as useful props for filling in gaps in service, yet we are often easily dismissed or discounted in workforce planning.

The recognition of what we do as "specialty" work would allow a number of positive outcomes. First, a better recognition of what we do. Second, marketing around that recognition would allow us to draw in more junior doctors to the program. Third, it would help incentivise hospitals to get on board with more appropriate training and support to help future GPs achieve their goals. Fourth, it would assist those of us who practice in this capacity to be remunerated according to our skill set. And fifth, it would force more recognition with doctors across Australia of the value and worth of the rural GP.

The ultimate beneficiary, however, will be the rural patient. With better recognition, promotion, pay and training, I would expect that we would see improved levels of care and access to care for rural Australians. This is the ultimate goal, and, as a person who plans to spend the rest of their life in rural Australia, it is what will keep my community going in the long term.

Regards,

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FACRRM, Advanced DRANZCOG

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