



Health Ministers' Meeting

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Dr Susan O'Dwyer
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Via email: Ahpra.Secretariat@ahpra.gov.au

Dear Dr O'Dwyer

Approval of Rural generalist medicine as a new field of specialty practice

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2025 on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) recommending approval of the revised list of medical specialists to include rural generalist medicine as a new field of specialty practice within the specialty of general practice and approve specialist rural generalist as the related protected title.

I am pleased to advise that the Ministerial Council agreed to approve the proposal on 26 August 2025 in accordance with section 13 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory.

In making this approval, we note the MBA's advice of the benefits in being able to recognise rural generalists and this field of specialty. We trust this will enable medical practitioners with an approved qualification in Rural generalist medicine to have Rural generalist medicine added to their record on the public Specialists Register. We note the Board does not anticipate any significant changes to existing arrangements and no adverse impacts expected for patients, governments, the health system or other health practitioners.

Ministers also agree with your proposal that the approved revised list take effect as soon as practicable (approximately one month) after receipt of our approvals for both Rural generalist medicine and Genetic pathology.

We note that the MBA will work with the AMC and the two GP colleges on transitional arrangements for medical practitioners who were awarded the Rural generalist medicine qualification prior to Ministerial Council approval and prior to formal accreditation and approval of the qualification. Feedback from the Victorian Health Minister and Health Chief Executives Forum has been shared with you and we trust it will be taken account during implementation by the AMC and the colleges.

Thank you for bringing the Board's proposal to Health Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Chris Picton MP
Chair
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2 / 9 / 2025