

Federal Budget and Election 2025

Key initiatives and recommendations

The Federal Budget and Election present an opportunity for the Government to demonstrate its commitment to building strong and sustainable rural communities and healthcare services.

The College puts forward these key initiatives and recommendations to improve affordable access to high quality healthcare for rural and remote, and First Nations communities.

Priority 1 - Consolidate the Rural Generalist training pipeline

ACRRM calls for:

- \$100 million over four years to increase Flagship RG pathway to 500 training positions.
- \$30 million annually to support prevocational training in rural communities, directly linking university graduates toward careers as rural GPs and RGs.

Priority 2 - Secure and strengthen rural women's health services

ACRRM calls for:

- Commitment to take action to arrest rural maternity service closures.
- Secure targeted funding streams to incentivise the rural maternity workforce including RGs skilled in obstetrics and anaesthetics.
- An intergovernmental taskforce to fund and secure continuity and sustainability of rural maternity and women's health services at risk of closures.

Priority 3 - Use Rural Generalist recognition to address rural deficit in funded health services

ACRRM calls for:

- Introduce RG-specific Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers to make specialised services more affordable and accessible for regional, rural and remote communities.
- Fund a national campaign to promote the skillset and potential of RGs in providing care to patients, families, rural communities, and supporting healthcare employers and planners.

Priority 4 - Retain and incentivise Rural Generalists for rural communities

ACRRM calls for:

- Targeted funding toward rural community infrastructure to attract and support health service providers.
- Recognise and remunerate the senior clinical consultant services of experienced rural and remote doctors.

