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Financial support for remote communities welcomed by ACRRM

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) welcomes today's announcement of the Remote Community Preparedness and Retrieval Package to help protect Indigenous communities against COVID-19.

The \$57.8 million package offers 110 remote communities across Australia access to 45 flexible grants.

ACRRM President Dr Ewen McPhee says it is vital these communities have access to funding to develop programs that will prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 in their community.

"These communities are most at risk and they need urgent support to not just survive, but thrive, throughout this pandemic, and after," Dr McPhee says.

"While they are in isolated locations, they have low immunity against disease and an outbreak could be devastating.

"There have been moves to restrict access to communities, and to reduce movement of people in and out of remote areas, but they are going to need to implement new programs and will need access to funding to do that.

"This is an opportunity for remote communities to be empowered to develop local contextualised responses.

"The College is working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander group to implement culturally safe support for our doctors who are working in these regions. "They are on the ground, providing high quality health care to their patients, their families and wider communities."

Today's announcement is part of a \$6.9 million investment through the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services to coordinate COVID-19 response efforts.

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For interviews with ACRRM president Dr Ewen McPhee, please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Petrina Smith at p.smith@acrrm.org.au, 0414 820 847 or 1800 223 226.

ABOUT ACRRM

The [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](https://www.acrrm.org.au) is the only College in Australia entirely dedicated to training and supporting rural General Practitioners and Rural Generalists to serve rural and remote communities.

The College vision is to have the right doctors, in the right places, with the right skills, providing rural and remote people with excellent health care.

For more information, [visit acrrm.org.au](https://www.acrrm.org.au).