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ACRRM to deliver Australia-first government-funded Rural Generalist Training Program

Minister for Regional Health the Hon Mark Coulton today announced the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) will deliver Australia's first government-funded specialist Rural Generalist (RG) training program.

The program, the latest step in the Government's commitment to implement a National Rural Generalist Pathway, will fund 100 training places in areas of workforce need and be implemented in 2021.

ACRRM President Dr Ewen McPhee says Minister Coulton's announcement recognises the need to have a training program which focuses on the healthcare of rural and remote communities and is delivered by a College which specialises in Rural Generalist (RG) medicine.

"ACRRM has long advocated for RG recognition," Dr McPhee says, "and this recognises our commitment to having the right doctors, in the right places with the right skills, providing rural and remote people with excellent health care.

"The Medical Board of Australia's Medical Training Survey, released this week, found ACRRM registrars are far more likely to be working rurally, and to be progressing a career in rural health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health than all other trainees.

"We also know ACRRM Fellows (FACRRMs) are unparalleled in their commitment to being long-term rural doctors and providing vital extended general practice services.

The ACRRM-delivered program will be registrar centred with a focus on health training environments which ensure a quality, collaborative and respectful workplace. It will be contextualised to local community needs and support a sustainable long-term rural health workforce.

"An RG workforce will help stem the current critical shortage of rural general practice services and address the shortage of specialist services, such as the current crises of rural and remote maternity units which are closing, or at risk of closing, due to a lack of suitably skilled doctors," Dr McPhee says.

"We are confident the College is the right choice for delivering this program, and proud to be delivering this new RG training program which is not only the first of its kind in Australia, but also the world. "We look forward to working with the government and stakeholders to ensure its success."

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For interviews or further information, please contact marketing and brand manager Petrina Smith at p.smith@acrrm.org.au, 0414820 847 or 1800 223 226.



ABOUT ACRRM

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine is the only College in Australia entirely dedicated to training and supporting rural general practitioners to serve rural and remote communities.

Our 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](http://acrrm.org.au).

ABOUT RURAL GENERALISM

For information on Rural Generalist Medicine, please [click here](#)