

RURAL GENERALIST RECOGNITION TASKFORCE

PROGRESS UPDATE · DECEMBER 2022

JOINT APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF RURAL GENERALIST MEDICINE AS A SPECIALISED FIELD OF PRACTICE

The Joint Application of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) for Rural Generalist Recognition has been submitted to the Australian Medical Council (AMC) this week to commence the second stage assessment process.

The application includes over a hundred pages of documentation. The key points to be established are:

- That the field is a distinct and legitimate area of specialist practice
- That the field can contribute to the standards of medical practice
- That recognition will address Australia's service delivery and quality of care

Prior to this, the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) conducted an initial assessment. This determined that a case had been established to progress the joint application to a Stage 2 Assessment to be conducted by the AMC. A further assessment determined that an Office of Best Practice Regulation (OPBR) Regulation Impact Study (RIS) would not be required in the process. The Medical Board's overarching process and guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

The AMC Stage 2 Assessment is expected to take approximately 12 months. It will be carried out by a Review Panel chaired by Prof Chris Baggoley. This will involve review of the Stage 2 Application and development of an AMC Consultation Paper. The Consultation Paper will be published and

circulated and there will be around eight weeks of national consultation. The AMC Assessment Team will then collate a report which is approved through AMC governance. A recommendation will be made to the MBA that will in turn make recommendation to the joint Health Ministers.

Members of the Rural Generalist Taskforce met with Hon. Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health on 3 November to provide a progress update and to discuss the National Rural Generalist Pathway.

BACKGROUND:

The Rural Generalist Recognition Taskforce has been meeting on a monthly basis since 2019 to oversee the joint-application to the Medical Board of Australia (Medical Board) for recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine as a specialised field within general practice. It is chaired by the National Rural Health Commissioner, Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart and includes senior representatives of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

For further information please contact the joint-application secretariat at recognitiontaskforce@acrrm.org.au.