Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine world leaders in rural practice



ACRRM policy priorities

ACRRM calls on all governments to commit to the College action priorities to improve access to quality health care for rural and remote Australians.

Grow the Rural Generalist workforce as a rural healthcare solution

Provide national leadership which enables Rural Generalists to support rural and remote communities with the broad range of high quality, locally based healthcare services they need and deserve.

Calls to action

- Ensure the national training framework adequately compensates for the higher costs associated with rural training so it can be positively viewed relative to urban training options
- Adopt an intergovernmental approach that sufficiently funds and supports RG training
- Implement single employer and other employment models that allow maintenance of workplace entitlements and paid parental leave across the training journey
- Close the gap between medical school and Fellowship training for general practice and rural generalism through expanded rural prevocational training.

Read more

Build strong, resilient, and sustainable healthcare services within rural and remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Fund strong, resilient, and sustainable community-based healthcare resources and services and support bespoke solutions which reflect the needs of the community.

Calls to action

- Urgently address the health workforce shortages in rural and remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Reset policy to prioritise funding and support for staff and resourcing in rural, remote, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Guarantee minimum access for all Australians to affordable and reliable data and voice services, which meet their specific needs, especially accessing telehealth
- Take immediate and sustained action to minimise the impact of climate change to protect the health and wellbeing of communities.

Read more

Restore the value proposition of rural general practice

Redirect healthcare funding towards comprehensive primary care and address barriers to rural and remote training and practice.

Calls to action

- Establish policies which incentivise provision of care by locally based practices and practitioners to embed continuity of doctor-patient relationships
- Implement blended funding models which consider the distinctions of rural and remote practice and are safeguarded from unintended consequences such as poor continuity of care and low value care business models.
- Improve payments and incentives for rural practice and service and establish better employment arrangements for registrars.

Read more

Drive intergovernmental solutions which deliver high quality, accessible healthcare services for rural and remote Australians

Lead a nationally coordinated approach which sets and upholds acceptable minimum standards of healthcare access for all Australians, wherever they live.

Calls to action

- Establish a single point of accountability to ensure all rural and remote communities are systematically supported by adequate funding and resourcing
- Lead coordination across health systems for rural and remote communities who rely on cross-sector collaboration to maximise local capacity
- Ensure the provision of a minimum acceptable level of service to all isolated Australians.

Read more

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