COMMUNIQUE

Joint Consultative Committee on Rural Generalist Medicine

September 2026

The Joint Consultative Committee on Rural Generalist Medicine (JCCRG) met on 16 September 2026. This Communique provides stakeholders with an update on key issues and outcomes.

Australian Medical Council (AMC)

The JCCRG welcomed the AMC to discuss training program accreditation requirements and areas of shared interest across both colleges. The discussion helped to clarify expectations and to inform planning including:

- Alignment of graduate outcomes for Rural Generalist (RG) training programs
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement in future program developments

The AMC clarified that similar graduate outcomes can be achieved through different training requirements, curricula and assessment pathways.

Approval of Rural Generalist qualifications

In July 2026, the Medical Board of Australia approved the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship Program and the RACGP Rural Generalist Fellowship as qualifications leading to Specialist registration in Rural Generalist Medicine.

Rural Generalist registration

From 1 September 2026, eligible ACRRM and RACGP-Rural Generalist Fellows can apply to Ahpra to add Rural Generalist Medicine to their specialist registration.

Protected title

From 29 March 2027, only medical practitioners with specialist registration in Rural Generalist Medicine can use the protected title ‘Specialist Rural Generalist’. This assures communities and health services that practitioners using the title have been trained and assessed to the highest standard.

Stakeholder relations

The JCCRG has continued to engage stakeholders about the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine. This includes correspondence with Commonwealth and jurisdictional governments, specialist medical colleges, peak bodies, First Nations organisations and community advocates, and presentations to the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges and the Medical Workforce Advisory Collaboration.

Contacting the JCCRG

Any questions or issues for the JCCRG can be directed to the secretariat: jccrg@acrrm.org.au.

Further information

For more information about Rural Generalist Medicine, the JCCRG, college training programs and medical specialist registration, please visit the following links:

- ACRRM
- RACGP
- Medical Board of Australia: Rural Generalist registration
- Australian Medical Council accreditation reports
- The JCCRG – information, communiques and media releases

The next meeting of the JCCRG will be held in November 2026.