
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON RURAL GENERALIST MEDICINE

A joint committee of

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF RURAL AND REMOTE MEDICINE (ACRRM)

Herein referred as "ACRRM", Level 1, 324 Queens Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (RACGP)

Herein referred as "RACGP", 100 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia

Terms of Reference

Aim

To improve access to high quality Rural Generalist Medicine (RG) care across Australia, recognising the importance of local, culturally safe, and community-based services

Objective

To work collaboratively on matters of shared interest for RG and provide leadership and expertise to support the RG profession and Australian health systems through coordinated initiatives for RG standards, curriculum, training, education, certification and advocacy.

Responsibilities

1. The JCCRG will consider and advise ACRRM and RACGP on matters relating to:
 - a. establishment and implementation of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency register of medical specialists
 - b. training pathways, curricula and assessment
 - c. accreditation of RG training posts, supervisors and mentors
 - d. credentialling, certification and re-certification of skills within existing service delivery and training programs
 - e. clinical privileging and RG models of care; and
 - f. continuing professional development.
2. Monitor and advise on policies and data related to training and workforce needs for RG.
3. Provide a forum for ongoing liaison, coordination and monitoring between the colleges, including oversight of the priorities and outcomes of other joint committees or working groups established to advance specific elements of RG training or scope of practice.
4. Commit to culturally safe, respectful, and accessible care for rural and remote communities, with particular attention to the needs and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
5. Provide a forum to discuss any relevant matters raised by committee members or which may have been referred by individual jurisdictions or agencies concerning RG implementation, certification or support.

Composition

This Committee will comprise the following members:

- three nominees from ACRRM
- three nominees from RACGP
- CEO from each College
- National Rural Health Commissioner

The term of office for members on the JCC will be three years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

The committee may, by agreement, invite other people to attend meetings from time to time to inform discussion or observe decisions. Committee guests will not be provided with access to committee papers other than as agreed by the Chair and will not hold voting rights.

Chair

The JCCRG will be chaired by the National Rural Health Commissioner for an initial term of two years, subject to agreement by the Colleges.

The position will be reviewed prior to the end of the initial term of the Chair and may be extended or revised as agreed for a maximum of three (two-year) terms.

Secretariat support

Secretariat support will be provided by each of the Colleges on a rotating three-year basis.

Each college may nominate a support staff member to attend meetings but they may not vote unless they are designated proxies.

Powers

The JCCRG is an advisory committee which will provide recommendations to ACRRM and RACGP.

It may form subcommittees or working parties to address specific issues or complete relevant tasks.

The JCCRG must not undertake the following without prior approval by the Colleges:

- make submissions to anyone other than the Colleges jointly
- issue announcements or media statements
- publish decisions or positions
- take membership in or participate in any other body.

The JCCRG must not implement any decision regarding training, curricula, assessment processes or training post accreditation criteria without the explicit approval of the relevant college/s.

Meeting Frequency

The JCCRG will hold a minimum of six meetings each year.

Meetings may be convened online to maximise the ability of rural and remote members to attend, however, at least one meeting should be held in person annually to enable more focussed and extensive discussion of the committee's priorities.

Meeting Quorum

A quorum will be a majority of members, providing at least two nominees from each College is included in the quorum.

A suitable proxy may be nominated if a member is not able to attend a meeting. However, the nominating College must ensure that the proxy is well briefed on key issues.

Meeting Administration

A meeting calendar will be considered at the inaugural meeting.

Meeting agendas and papers will be prepared by the Secretariat, approved by the Chair, and distributed to members at least seven days prior to each meeting.

Minutes of each meeting must be prepared and forwarded to the Chair for approval within 14 days of each meeting. The Chair-approved minutes will then be forwarded to the JCCRG members for review and endorsement.

Reporting and communication with the Colleges

Copies of the confirmed minutes from each JCCRG meeting must be forwarded to a nominated contact in each college within seven days of being approved. The CEO (or other specified nominee) for each College will be responsible for ensuring the meeting minutes and relevant actions, are progressed through the respective College governance structures as appropriate.

A draft communique will be prepared following each meeting and shared with the JCCRG members for review and endorsement prior to being approved by the Chair. The JCCRG Chair will provide the approved communique to the Chairs of ACRRM and RACGP Boards.

With the agreement of both colleges, the communique may also be distributed to external National Rural Generalist Pathway committees and stakeholders. The Colleges commit to consider and approve the communique for wider distribution within 14 days.

Either College Chair may invite the JCCRG Chair to engage with them or their respective Board on specific JCCRG matters. Similarly, the Chair of the JCCRG may invite the College Chairs to discuss emergent issues or clarify decisions as required.

Funding

The Colleges will apply for external funding to support the operations and activities of the JCCRG and its subcommittees or working groups.

In the absence of external funding, each College will fund its representatives to attend meetings and tasks related to this committee in line with their respective College policies.

The Colleges will equally share the Chair's expenses for any travel, accommodation or reasonable out of pocket costs associated with undertaking JCCRG work, if required.

Intellectual Property

Each College maintains full ownership of any pre-existing Intellectual Property that it brings to the deliberations or work of the JCCRG. The Intellectual Property of any new materials developed through the committee will be jointly owned by the Colleges.

Review

These terms of reference will be reviewed after 12 months initially, and at least every two years following the initial review.

Version History

Version	Date of effect	Amendment details	Amended by
1.0	May 2026	Initial release	N/A
Policy owner	RACGP & ACRRM		
Approved by	ACRRM Board RACGP Board	Approved on	April 2026 April 2026
Next review due:	May 2027		