

Rural Generalist Recognition Taskforce

PROGRESS UPDATE · JULY 2023

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

The second and final stage assessment of 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 is well underway.

The Stage 2 Assessment is expected to take approximately 12 months. It is being led by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Review Panel chaired by Professor Chris Baggoley.

The AMC Review Panel have reviewed the application. The Consultation Paper and consultation questions have been drafted and the AMC is working with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) to finalise the document and commence the consultation.

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 for approval through AMC governance. A recommendation will be made to the MBA that will in turn make recommendation to the joint Health Ministers.

The Joint-Application includes over a hundred pages of documentation. It addresses the key points:

- 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

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).

The MBA conducted an initial assessment and 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 Impact Analysis Regulation Impact Study (RIS) would not be required in the process. The Medical Board's overarching process and guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

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