

# RURAL GENERALIST RECOGNITION TASKFORCE

## PROGRESS UPDATE · SEPTEMBER 2022

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

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 Medical Board has determined that a case has been established to progress the joint application to its Stage 2 (detailed) Assessment to be conducted by the Australia Medical Council (AMC). The Medical Board's overarching process and guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

Following an initial assessment, the Commonwealth Government's Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) has determined that a Regulation Impact Study (RIS) will not be required in the process.

The AMC Assessment is expected to take approximately 12 months. This will involve a review of the Stage 2 joint-submission 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 will be approved through AMC governance. A recommendation will be made to the Medical Board that will in turn make recommendation to the joint Health Ministers.

The AMC has appointed Prof Chris Baggoley to chair the AMC Review Panel and is finalising the full panel membership.

The AMC assessment guidelines have been confirmed. The key points to establish 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.

The Taskforce is currently developing its submission against these and is finalising this over the upcoming weeks.

The Taskforce has written and received feedback from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride on its work, and will be meeting with Minister McBride this month.

For further information or assistance, please contact the joint-application secretariat at [recognitiontaskforce@acrrm.org.au](mailto:recognitiontaskforce@acrrm.org.au).