



Australian Government

National Rural Health Commissioner

# Digital Age – Education, Health and Tourism

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National Rural Health  
Commissioner



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I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, the land traditionally cared for by the Ngunnawal people.

I pay my respects to the Elders of this land past, present and emerging.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with us today.

# Role of the National Rural Health Commissioner

- Consult with rural, regional and remote stakeholders & communities
- Formulate advice for Minister Coulton to assist development of rural health strategy and policy





## The Priorities of the Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner

- Rural Generalist pathways in Allied Health and Medicine
- Primary care Rural Innovative Multidisciplinary Models of care grant opportunity (PRIMM)
- COVID-19 rural workforce
- Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program evaluation and implementation of the recommendations
- GP training

# Why are these priorities for the Government?

- Health status deteriorates with remoteness
- Life expectancy deteriorates with remoteness
- Potentially preventable hospitalisations increase steeply with remoteness

We are currently not providing rural people with the care they need



# Digital Age in Health

Changing discourse in rural health  
from deficit focussed to strengths  
based

*“it’s not about what we don’t have,  
it’s about what we do have”*



# Why rural generalism?

- Distribution of the health workforce is just the beginning
- Needed: appropriately skilled workforce
- Rural Generalists can cover the service gaps for rural and remote communities.





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**Thank you**