

Rural Generalist Recognition Taskforce

PROGRESS UPDATE · OCTOBER 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 national consultation on the joint-application is to commence on Monday 16 October. From that time a Consultation Draft will be published and circulated to key stakeholders. All interested individuals and organisations will have the opportunity to provide their feedback for consideration. The consultation is expected to be open for eight weeks.

The consultation will be conducted by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) who have been tasked by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) to carry out the overall assessment. This work is being led by the AMC Review Panel chaired by Professor Chris Baggoley.

The AMC Review Panel reviewed the joint-application which provided the basis for the Consultation Paper and consultation questions earlier this year, and the consultation documentation was reviewed and approved by the MBA.

Following the consultation, the AMC Assessment Team will collate an advice 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 Stage 2 Assessment 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

Read the [Stage 2 Assessment Joint-Application](#)

Background:

The Rural Generalist Recognition Taskforce has been meeting on a monthly basis since 2019 to oversee the joint-application to the MBA 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 RACGP and 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.