



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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The bush to benefit from increased registrar numbers

The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) today welcomed the Commonwealth Government's Rural Transition Program (RTP) aimed at encouraging medical graduates wanting to specialise in general practice to be trained in the areas that need them most.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the successful pilot program shows that using innovative ideas will help to attract and retain medical graduates to regional areas and assist in tackling Australia's GP shortage.

"The RTP pilot that ran in Dubbo demonstrated a higher level of interest from registrars who applied to do their initial GP training in larger regional centres before going into smaller regional towns to complete their last two years of GP training," Dr Thomson said.

First year GP training for doctors in the rural pathway in larger towns will give registrars more exposure to varied conditions. The training will allow these future GPs to have a greater degree of confidence before going to practice in smaller rural communities.

"This program identifies real areas of need such as Orange, Ballarat, Rockhampton and Meander. Targeting these larger centres will help increase the number of long term GPs practicing in rural and regional centres," Dr Thomson said.

Next year it is expected the program will attract another 17 registrars into regional areas.

"ADGP is confident this program will be a success in attracting GPs to regional Australia and eagerly awaits the programs evaluation at the end of next year," Dr Thomson said.

ADGP CEO Kate Carnell said we will continue to urge the commonwealth, state and territory governments to work with us to address GP shortages across Australia.

"This issue is a major challenge but I am confident that by providing practical solutions we can improve general practice services for rural, regional and metropolitan Australia," Ms Carnell said.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



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