Your rural team

RACGP Rural leads advocacy efforts for general practitioners working in rural and remote Australia
Our vision

Rural and remote communities across Australia have equitable access to high quality primary care.

RACGP Rural strives to support its members and the wider community through providing expertise in the areas of rural education and health policy. Strengthening our engagement at both state and national levels of government is an important focus for the faculty. Working with key rural stakeholders enables meaningful and effective representation on issues.

Actively involved in policy, advocacy and education, our key aim is to support our membership through strategies which increase the capacity of rural general practice and lead to more equitable access to healthcare for rural communities.

Our strategic priority areas
We encourage you to consider the faculty’s strengths as we work toward a shared goal – to bring about lasting change for rural communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribute toward the RACGP goal</th>
<th>Champion the role of the rural GP and lead the discussion to address the challenges of rural general practice.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy and advocacy</td>
<td>Strong policy leadership in the areas that matter most to our members ensuring a strong rural voice to secure a sustainable rural health system for the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Ensure the Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice is a valuable and highly sought-after qualification which offers contemporary rural curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Ensure a sustainable, well-supported rural general practice workforce to competently and confidently address the needs of rural and remote communities.</td>
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Want to know more?
Email us to sign up to our bi-monthly e-bulletin for updates on current news, programs, events and opportunities relating to the work the faculty undertakes at the RACGP. Visit and explore the faculty website: www.racgp.org.au/rural

Who is the faculty team?
RACGP Rural currently has more than 13,300 members, over 6,500 of whom are registered GPs in rural and remote Australia.

Our strength lies in our membership. As the largest rural general practice representative body of any Australian specialist medical college, we are well positioned to shape the sustainable future rural GP workforce our rural and remote communities vitally need.

The faculty has a dedicated Board and Education Committee comprised of GPs and general practice educators supported by a small, committed group of staff members located in VIC, SA and QLD. RACGP Rural is committed to strong and effective engagement with key rural stakeholders.

Contact RACGP Rural
Email rural@racgp.org.au | Freecall 1800 636 764 | Level 1 100 Wellington Parade East Melbourne 3002

Footnotes
1. The Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP) is a qualification awarded by the RACGP in addition to the vocational Fellowship (FRACGP). The FARGP cannot be undertaken as a stand-alone qualification. For more information visit www.racgp.org.au/fargp
2. As at November 2015.
**Member support**

We advocate on behalf of rural GPs, registrars and medical students, recognise and celebrate their achievements and provide ongoing support.

Prioritise inclusive member engagement activities which provide networking opportunities for students, interns, registrars and rural GPs, such as:

- Rural Connections student mentoring program
- Rural Health Career Checks and presentations at student events

Celebrate the achievements of rural GPs through annual awards:

- Brian Williams Award
- Rural Registrar of the Year
- Medical Student Bursary of the Year

Provide support to members and staff with specific rural enquiries.

**Education and assessments**

We endeavour to provide an advanced qualification which offers a contemporary competency-based rural curriculum which is both flexible and accessible in meeting the needs of the rural GP registrars and their communities.

Facilitate the FARGP enabling registrars and practising GPs to build on their clinical skills and confidence to practice and meet the needs of rural and remote Australia.

Develop Advanced Rural Skills Training (ARST) curriculum content ensuring the training is relevant and accessible for rural GPs and facilitate the delivery of a range of QI&CPD rural education activities.

Collaborate with other professional bodies on professional standards required and training in rural general practice e.g. Joint Consultative Committees (JCC).

Review and contribute to RACGP curriculum content and vocational training standards.

Provide access to Commonwealth Department of Health training grants through its Rural Procedural Grants Program (RPGP).

Distribute DVD resources assisting members in preparation for the RACGP Fellowship Exams (FRACGP).

**Policy and advocacy**

Our focus is to ensure rural GPs are prioritised in recognising their unique skills, challenges and requirements.

Provide policy advice to government on a range of issues impacting rural GPs.

Provide rural content for RACGP submissions and statements on implications for rural communities from broader health system reform.

Lead research relating to rural GP training and advanced skills, workforce maldistribution and addressing needs.

Present members with the opportunity to contribute to the development of policy through roundtables, forums, polls and direct liaison.

Facilitate information sharing, advocacy and strategic planning with our partner organisations.

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**Dr Sally Baines (FRACGP, FARGP)**

www.racgp.org.au/rural

Healthy Profession. Healthy Australia.