

RURAL GENERALIST RECOGNITION TASKFORCE

PROGRESS UPDATE · APRIL 2022

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 advised of its determination that the ACRRM-RACGP joint application for recognition has established a case to progress to its Stage 2 (detailed) Assessment.

The Stage 2 Assessment will be conducted by the Australia Medical Council (AMC). As this is a new process, the AMC are currently finalising their process guidelines. The Assessment is expected to take approximately 12 months and will involve a national consultation, review of the current status of the specialist field, and further community impact analyses of the proposal.

The assessment may be required to incorporate a Regulation Impact Study (RIS) for the Commonwealth Government's Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR). The RIS makes a determination regarding whether the proposed regulatory change would be of net public benefit.

The Medical Board has made an application to the OBPR to determine whether the Stage 2 Assessment will involve a RIS. Representatives of the Medical Board, the AMC, the ACRRM and the RACGP met with OBPR officers in March to discuss this, pending a final determination.

The Medical Board's overarching process and guidelines can be viewed [here](#).

The Taskforce continues to meet regularly to prepare for the upcoming assessment and its national consultation and to discuss related issues.

For further information or assistance, please contact the joint-application secretariat at recognitiontaskforce@acrrm.org.au.