

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 14 October 2011

Milestone for college dedicated to rural and remote medicine celebrated by country doctors

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed the full accreditation of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) by the Australian Medical Council (AMC), thus confirming its place as one of the nation's specialist Colleges.

Dr Paul Mara, President of RDAA, particularly welcomed the recent AMC assessment that commended the College's support for flexible training arrangements, its development of online learning and assessment, and its professional development program – innovations that enable doctors in rural and remote areas to access high quality support and training.

"ACRRM was formed in response to a demand from rural doctors for a training program which provided them with the skills they needed for rural practice, Dr Mara said.

"RDAA supported the foundation of ACRRM back in 2003, and since then the College has gone from strength to strength,"

ACRRM provides three pathways for doctors wishing to train as specialist general practitioners and receive Fellowship of the College, all involving the completion of four years of training in accredited posts while working in hospitals, and community and general practices.

Doctors complete their training with a minimum of one year of advanced specialty training in an area that will provide advanced skills and knowledge relevant to rural and remote medical practice such as surgery, obstetrics, anaesthetics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, emergency medicine, mental health, adult internal medicine, population health, paediatrics, or remote medicine.

Dr Mara also welcomed the report's recognition of the enthusiasm and commitment of the doctors who contribute to College training as supervisors and as members of ACRRM training committees.

"Rural doctors have a great tradition of mentoring medical students and registrars", Dr Mara said.

"With an ageing population of country GPs fast approaching retirement, we need a new generation of doctors who have the necessary skills to practice competently and confidently in the bush".

"ACRRM's full accreditation is another step towards achieving this goal".

Available for interview: Dr Paul Mara on 0466 665 933

Alternative media contact: Ineke Kuiper on 0408 669 638 (Thu-Fri)
Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890 (Mon-Wed)