

MEDIA RELEASE



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Rural doctors to seek support for flood-affected colleagues

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is urgently gathering information on just how many rural doctors and surgeries have been impacted by the flood disaster across Queensland and some other states, in order to seek special assistance from the Federal Government and relevant state governments for surgeries that have been inundated with water.

“Our thoughts are with all those rural doctors, their families and wider communities impacted by the recent devastating flooding across large areas of Queensland and some other states—including those people who tragically have lost their lives” RDAA President, Dr Paul Mara, said.

“We want to support affected doctors and practices as much as we can at this critical time.

“In some cases, these doctors not only are having to cope with significant flood damage to their own homes and practices but, in the face of exhaustion, are also trying to continue to meet the medical needs of their communities.

“This includes providing urgent mental healthcare to farmers and other rural business-people who may have just fought their way through a relentless drought only to be facing the financial devastation wrought by the floods.

“We are working closely with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, the Rural Doctors Association of NSW, Health Workforce Queensland and other organisations to assemble a full list of exactly how many rural doctors and rural medical practices have been impacted by the floods, where they are located, and what assistance (financial and otherwise) they will need to rebuild.

“As we gather these details, we will be approaching the Federal Government and relevant state governments for special assistance to enable this rebuilding to occur. This information will be provided to governments on a rolling basis as the flood situation develops.

“RDAA is also urging any rural Australian impacted by the flooding and feeling down or depressed to see their local doctor or other appropriate local health professional, or to contact one of the telephone counselling services, for care and assistance.”

Rural doctors impacted directly by the floods through loss, damage or disruption, or doctors who know of a colleague who has been impacted, are asked to visit the homepage at www.rdaa.com.au for information on how to provide further details of their situation.

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