

24 August 2023

Space medicine, the future of SA rural ambulance services, and voluntary assisted dying – Masterclass 2023 has it all

RDASA Masterclass

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 August, Adelaide Convention Centre

Rural doctors from across South Australia will converge on Adelaide from tomorrow (Friday) for a major annual event on their calendar – the Rural Doctors Association of South Australia’s (RDASA) Masterclass 2023.

“Once again, we have an incredible program lined up for this year’s Masterclass” **RDASA President, Dr Peter Rischbieth, said.**

“Our Saturday program will focus on Emergency Medicine, including an important presentation on SA’s community paramedics and the future of Rural Ambulance Services in SA.

“We’ll also be welcoming Dr Vienna Tran, a rural doctor working in Mount Gambier who is also a Space Medicine researcher. She’ll be presenting on the topic Emergency Medicine in space and the outback – more in common than you think.

“Our Sunday program will feature a forum on Voluntary Assisted Dying (including a Q&A session with experienced rural doctors).

“And on the medico-political front, we’ll be holding a Member Forum for RDASA members on Saturday afternoon to discuss key issues impacting on access to rural healthcare in South Australia.

“This will include discussion about the urgent need for increased supports for rural SA hospitals and medical practices to teach and train more medical students, junior doctors, and Rural Generalist and General Practice registrars in our country communities.

“The best way to get more doctors to country South Australia is to train them in country South Australia – and to provide them with more opportunities to undertake clinical placements in our rural hospitals and practices.

“But to enable this, our rural hospitals and practices need to be better supported.

“We’ll also be discussing the ongoing closures and downgrades of rural maternity units across Australia (including South Australia), as well as new doctor employment models like the Single Employer Model that can make it easier for junior doctors to choose to undertake specialty training in General Practice (GP) or Rural Generalist (RG) practice, because they will no longer lose the employment benefits they have accrued while working as interns in the hospital system should they choose to undertake GP or RG training.

“We will also be discussing the need for the wider rollout of a Rural Generalist Training Program in South Australia to enable more junior doctors to train in this field of Medicine that is so crucial for rural communities.”

Dr Rischbieth said a **#DestinationRural** careers day will also be held on Saturday at the Masterclass, providing medical students and junior doctors with an inspiring insight into the career pathways they can take as Rural Generalist doctors.

Selected highlights – Masterclass 2023

Saturday

- Emergency Medicine in space and the outback – more in common than you think
- Community paramedics and the future of Rural Ambulance Services
- Rural Generalist Pathway – who, how and when (includes a Q&A panel session)
- Emergency Dental Medicine
- Emergency Eye Medicine
- RDASA Member Forum (and AGM)

Saturday evening

- The annual RDASA Awards Dinner – including an address by the SA Health Minister, Chris Picton MP. The Awards Dinner will include the announcement of ‘Lifetime achievement awards’ for a number of dedicated SA rural doctors.

Sunday

- ADHD assessment for adults and children
- Voluntary Assisted Dying – forum and Q&A with experienced rural doctors
- Special Interest Forums – Obstetrics, Anaesthetics and Palliative Care

Please note that while the RDASA Member Forum is closed to media, Dr Peter Rischbieth will be available afterwards to provide an update and interviews on issues discussed.

Available for interview:

Dr Peter Rischbieth, RDASA President
Dr Bill Geyer, RDASA Board Member
Ms Peta Rutherford, RDAA CEO

Media contacts:

Dr Peter Rischbieth on 0408 813 143
Dr Bill Geyer on 0409 633 045
Anita Adlam on 0404 369 900