

Media release

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## Tasmanian rural doctor conference gets underway

**Tasmanian Rural Health Conference 2022**  
**17-18 September 2022**  
**Tamar Valley Resort, Tasmania**

Rural doctors from all over Tasmania are gathering this weekend for their annual event, the **Tasmanian Rural Health Conference 2022**. With an impressive line-up of speakers that includes all the big movers in rural health, this year's conference has something for everyone.

Co-convened by the Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania (RDAT), HR+ and the Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway, there will be more than 120 delegates in attendance.

RDAT President Dr Eve Merfield said it was exciting for Tassie doctors to be able to come together and hear from so many great presenters.

"We are thrilled to be kicking off our program with **prominent state and federal politicians in attendance**, who will discuss what their government's plan is for rural health.

"This will be followed by a session featuring both the **President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), Dr Sarah Chalmers**, as well as the **Rural Chair from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Dr Michael Clements**. There has never been a more relevant time to discuss their vision for the future of rural GP training in Tasmania, as the transition to College-led training is progressing right at this moment.

"Our Rural Health Panel discussion also features some heavy hitters, with the **National Rural Health Commissioner Prof Ruth Stewart** joining **Dr Allison Turnock from the Department of Health**, a range of local doctors and practice owners, alongside Drs Chalmers and Clements. This session is sure to be thought provoking, with a case-based approach to providing solutions to rural health workforce issues.

"We will have great clinical sessions including:

- Musculoskeletal / Orthopaedics (for CPD)
- Acute care approach to the sick child
- Women's health, family planning and managing midlife issues in rural practice
- Rural emergencies
- Mental health
- Airways
- Chronic pain

"Plus sessions for supervisors and trainees, to help ensure we are equipping our junior doctors with the skills needed to complete their training, pass their exams and become qualified and valuable members of the Tasmanian rural health team," Dr Merfield said.

The weekend will also include RDAT's Annual General Meeting, a conference dinner, and lots of opportunities for delegates and their partners to explore the Tamar Valley and all it has to offer.

"We have a fabulous program, and great cohort of delegates and we plan on getting the most out of the only conference that brings our Tasmanian rural doctors together. Our rural areas are diverse and spread across both the remote and less-remote parts of our state, so this is our key opportunity to gather and share our ideas, our experiences and provide each other with collegiate support," Dr Merfield said.

“We are sure this will be the best TRHC yet and provide our Tassie doctors with renewed energy, enthusiasm and skills to take back to their rural communities.”

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**A high resolution photo of Dr Eve Merfield is available here: <https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/595>**

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