

Media alert

Sunday 10 March 2013

Rural doctors to hold national breakfast briefing for federal politicians

Parliament House, Canberra Wednesday 13 March 2013

(Media—please refer to ‘notes to media’ at end of release)

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) will hold a national breakfast briefing for federal politicians at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday 13 March 2013.

More than 50 politicians including Ministers, Shadow Ministers, MPs and Senators, will be meeting with around 30 rural doctors from right across Australia, to discuss the key national health policy issues facing rural doctors and their patients.

Speaking at the breakfast will be:

- **Dr Tonia Marquardt**, Telstra RDAA Rural Registrar of the Year for 2012 who is currently working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service based in Cairns.
- **Dr Sheilagh Cronin**, RDAA President and a rural doctor with more than 20 years experience in rural Queensland. She has worked in the Whitsundays, Sarina and Longreach and has established a number of flying women's clinics to the remote towns of western Queensland. Dr Cronin currently practises in Cloncurry, Maleny and Montville.

A key topic for discussion will be ways and means of attracting more young doctors to the bush and how to support them to ensure they have a viable career with adequate training opportunities to enable them to be able to practise successfully and safely.

The breakfast briefing will be followed by a meeting of RDAA's Female Doctors Group, also at Parliament House. A number of senior politicians will address the meeting.

Notes to media:

- **Interviews about RDAA's national breakfast briefing** will be available with Dr Sheilagh Cronin and RDAA CEO Jenny Johnson by appointment on Tuesday 12 March in Canberra, and after the breakfast concludes at 8.45am on Wednesday 13 March.
 - **Interviews about the Female Doctors Group meeting** will be available with the group's Chair, Dr Jenny May by appointment
 - **Media interested in attending the breakfast briefing for vision or photos should contact Patrick Daley to discuss options.** The Female Doctors Group meeting is closed to media.
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Media contact: Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890