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12 September 2017

Medicinal cannabis for rural patients: Key topic at peak rural doctors' conference

Rural Medicine Australia
19-21 October 2017
Pullman Hotel, Melbourne
#RMA17 | www.ruralmedicineaustralia.com.au

The use of medicinal cannabis for rural patients, and its implications for their doctors and rural medical practices, will be a key topic at this year's Rural Medicine Australia (RMA17) conference in Melbourne.

The major annual conference for rural doctors will feature a session exploring recent regulatory changes to the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes, and consideration of wider clinical and prescribing issues, to help equip rural doctors to work under the new legislation.

Dr Ewen McPhee, President of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) — which co-hosts the conference with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) — said it is a topic that will be of significant interest to rural and remote doctors.

“There is a lot of confusion about the changes to the use of cannabis in the medical space, and what these changes mean for rural and remote patients, doctors and medical practices” Dr McPhee said.

“The use of medicinal cannabis has generated a lot of community interest. We know our delegates will be keen to engage with the experts on this topic.

“Through our session at RMA17, we hope to provide doctors with the tools and information they need to give accurate advice and ensure their practice remains compliant with any relevant legislation.”

ACRRM President, Professor Ruth Stewart, said: “RMA17 will offer the opportunity for doctors to hear from a panel of experts about the regulatory issues for medicinal cannabis.

“This is the perfect opportunity for rural generalists to hear from experts about this emerging product and build an understanding of the implications for rural and remote practice.

“The workshop will also include a Q&A session for delegates to ask their own questions on this emerging treatment.”

Rural Medicine Australia is the peak annual conference of rural doctors in Australia. It provides them with the opportunity to hear the most recent medical research updates, access relevant training opportunities, and receive the latest information on a wide range of topics specifically relevant to rural medicine.

More information on RMA17 (including the full program) can be found at www.ruralmedicineaustralia.com.au.

Available for interview:

RDAA President, Dr Ewen McPhee, on 0419 427 520

ACRRM President, Professor Ruth Stewart (via Rachelle Forbes)

RDAA CEO, Peta Rutherford, on 0427 638 374

Alternative media contacts:

Patrick Daley (RDAA) on 0408 004 890

Rachelle Forbes (ACRRM) on 07 3105 8200 or 0432 275 926

Ineke Kuiper (RDAA) on 0408 669 638 (Thursday and Friday)

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