

# ELECTION PLATFORM 2013

## WHAT ARE OUR KEY PRIORITIES?

The recommendations in RDAA'S Federal Election Platform centre on adopting evidenced-based initiatives to ensure that:

- A pipeline of doctors receive the qualifications, skills and training required for rural practice, and
- Rural practices receive the support they need to be able to attract and retain this pipeline of doctors to rural area to provide health services that meet the needs of their local communities.

In these tight fiscal times, RDAA is seeking better targeting of existing federal funding into rural health policies and programs that allow Australia to grow our own rural doctors and improve access to health care in rural and remote areas.

## OUR NINE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARTIES

To secure a pipeline of doctors with the qualifications, skills and training required for rural practice, RDAA recommends that the parties commit to:

1. Funding more rural training places for interns, junior doctors and registrars.
2. Implementing a national advanced rural training program to provide a fully supported training pathway into rural medicine tailored to meet the needs of rural communities.
3. Investing in infrastructure to build the capacity of rural practices to train medical students, junior doctors and GP registrars as future rural doctors.
4. Realistic reimbursements for skilled rural clinical supervisors and rural practices to train future rural doctors.
5. A national approach to employing GP registrars as a way of delivering a more sustainable model for training future GPs.
6. Funding a nationally coordinated program to ensure that overseas trained doctors seeking to practise in rural and remote communities receive access to the basic and advanced training required to meet the needs of these communities, prior to unsupervised practise.

To ensure rural practices receive the support they need to be able to provide health services that meet the needs of their local communities, RDAA recommends that the parties commit to:

7. Providing fair and realistic incentives to encourage rural doctors to relocate to, and remain in, rural practice, with the level of incentive increasing with actual rurality.
8. Recognising and rewarding rural doctors for the complexity of work they perform across the general practice and hospital setting.
9. Implementing a rural health infrastructure program to assist rural practices to expand and extend health services to meet the needs of their communities.