

Conference alert to emergency medicine needs

RURAL doctors from throughout Queensland – many of whom treated patients during the flood and cyclone natural disasters of recent years- will hear from one of the world’s experts on emergency medicine in Mackay next month.

Professor Anthony Brown, a senior staff specialist in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, will tell nearly 300 delegates at the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland annual conference that practitioners in rural or remote towns have just as much chance as attending an emergency than their big city counterparts.

Prof Brown says emergency medical skills are based around key fundamental principles regardless of where doctors are located and it will be his intention to take doctors through the ‘ABCs’ of the practice, critical for rural doctors who are often left to face emergency incidents on their own and isolated from ready support.

Prof Brown’s keynote address will be delivered against the backdrop of this year’s conference theme – Digging Deep for Rural Health, Living and Working on the Land.

RDAQ president Dr Adam Coltzau said RDAQ’s 24th annual conference from June 7-9 would focus on the changing role of occupational and industrial health in rural medicine as it applied to Queensland’s two biggest rural based industries – mining and agriculture.

He said Prof Brown’s appearance at the conference was especially timely given the severe impact rural Queensland had experienced in recent years from flooding, cyclones and once again drought, with nearly two-thirds of the state now officially drought declared.

“This year’s conference will explore many of the challenges and benefits faced by doctors working tirelessly in the rural towns that service the resource and agriculture industries,” Dr Coltzau said.

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Supporting Rural Doctors and Rural Communities