

21 March 2025

## “Perfect time” for the new Chief Medical Officer, say rural docs

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed the appointment of Professor Michael Kidd AO, who played a key role in advising the Government throughout the COVID pandemic, as Australia’s new Chief Medical Officer.

RDAA President Dr RT Lewandowski said that Prof Kidd’s experience as a GP, a researcher and a medical leader in the health sector will be invaluable.

“With so many reviews of the primary care sector, and recommendations to progress, this is the perfect time for Prof Kidd to provide leadership and guidance over the coming reform,” Dr Lewandowski said.

“RDAA developed a strong working relationship with Prof Kidd during COVID when he served as Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor with the Department of Health and Aged Care.



“We always found him considered, willing to listen and willing to act to address the issues that challenged doctors and patients in rural and remote Australia throughout the pandemic.”

“He is highly respected in Australia and internationally, and the role he played throughout the COVID was pivotal in shaping the Australian primary care response.”

In addition to his previous roles with the Department, Prof Kidd is a highly experienced medical leader, previously serving as president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the World Organization of Family Doctors.

“With significant reform of the primary care sector on the horizon this is a particularly important time to have a respected GP leader such as Prof Kidd providing advice and guidance to the Minister for Health and the Health Department Secretary,” Dr Lewandowski said.

“We look forward to working with him in his new role as Chief Medical Officer from 1 June 2025.”

---

Read RDAA’s Federal Election Priorities [here](#).

Download:

[Photo of Dr RT Lewandowski](#)

**Available for interview:**

RDAA President, Dr RT Lewandowski

RDAA CEO, Ms Peta Rutherford

**Media contacts:**

Ineke Kuiper on 0408 669 638

Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890