

11 February 26

Rural practice owners to gather for must-attend 2026 national conference

RDAA Rural Practice Owners Conference
7-8 March 2025
Sofitel, Gold Coast



Rural and remote medical practice owners from across Australia will come together on the Gold Coast in March 2026 for the **Rural Practice Owners Conference 2026**, the first national event of its kind, focused on the real-world business of running sustainable rural and remote medical practices.

Hosted by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), the conference will be held from 7–8 March 2026, bringing together practice owners, managers, policymakers and sector leaders for two days of practical insights, peer learning and strategic discussion.



RDAA President Dr Sarah Chalmers said the conference is designed to give rural practice owners practical advice, insights and guidance to help them continue to meet the needs of their communities.

“Running a rural practice is far more difficult and complex than running a practice in an urban location; remote practices are on another more difficult level again,” Dr Chalmers said.

“Medical practices in rural communities need to offer a more comprehensive level of care, often need to balance workforce between the general practice and hospital settings, have far less access to specialist care and allied health care, and deal with an extremely broad range of patients with a huge variety of complex care needs.

“With fewer patients but more services, rural medical practices often struggle to balance clinical care, increasingly complex business, workforce and compliance demands, and ongoing viability.

“This conference is about giving rural practice owners the tools, confidence and connections they need to make informed decisions about ownership models, workforce, finances, technology and the future of rural healthcare delivery.”

The conference program will explore contemporary models of rural practice ownership, financial planning, Medicare billing in the rural context, accreditation and compliance, workforce and HR challenges, and the growing role of artificial intelligence in general practice.

Key program highlights include:

- A national plenary on rural practice ownership models, featuring perspectives from independent, community-owned and corporate practices
- Sessions on practice accounting, financial planning and Medicare billing, tailored to rural realities
- Dedicated discussions on HR issues, IMG recruitment pathways and workforce sustainability
- A plenary panel on AI in rural medical practice, examining what's coming, what works now, and what to approach with caution
- Opportunities to engage directly with ACRRM, RACGP, government agencies and industry partners

The conference will also feature a **Charity Gala Dinner** supporting the work of the Rural Doctors Foundation.

Dr Chalmers said this was a unique offering aimed squarely at the continued viability of rural and remote general practice – a service which is essential to maintain quality, holistic health services in these communities.

“While metropolitan practice owners have long had access to tailored business and leadership forums, rural practice owners have largely been expected to adapt content that doesn’t reflect their reality.

“The Rural Practice Owners Conference has been created to address this gap and provide a forum that speaks directly to their needs.

“There is real power in getting rural practice owners in the same room; people who understand the pressures, the risks and the rewards of running a practice outside metropolitan Australia,” she said.

“The conversations that happen over coffee, at dinner or on the trade floor will be just as important as the formal sessions.

“If you own a rural or remote medical practice, or are considering owning or buying into one in the future, this conference is a must-attend event.”

Further information

[Registrations](#) are open

[Full program details](#)

Download:

[Photo of Dr Sarah Chalmers](#)

Available for interview:

RDAAC President, Dr Sarah Chalmers

RDAAC CEO/Conference Convener, Peta Rutherford

Media contacts:

Ineke Kuiper on 0408 669 638

Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890