

## MEDIA RELEASE – January 2010

### **RGP boosts medical workforce in Queensland**

Since 2007 the Rural Generalist Pathway (RGP) has been helping boost the medical workforce needed in rural and remote communities.

Today more than 100 doctors are being supported by the RGP Team, based at the Cunningham Centre in Toowoomba, which has proved an excellent pathway for junior doctors wishing to pursue a vocationally registered career in Rural Generalist Medicine.

RGP's Rural Generalist Medical Advisor, Dr Dan Manahan said the Queensland Health funded initiative was the ideal way for junior doctors to be exposed to working in rural medicine.

"It is a fully supported, incentive based career pathway for junior doctors wishing to become a Rural Generalist," Dr Manahan said.

"It offers junior doctors an advisory and support service comprised of experienced rural medical and administrative staff dedicated to assisting them achieve a career in rural medicine.

"It provides quarantined training opportunities at select Rural Generalist Training Hospitals providing access to disciplines including paediatrics, obstetrics and anaesthetics."

Dr Manahan said support and advice regarding appropriate Advanced Specialised Training (AST) posts was also available to junior doctors.

The RGP was founded following a meeting of key stakeholders who convened in Roma in August 2005 to discuss and develop the concept of a supported training pathway to a career in rural medicine and the pathway still receives vital input from these stakeholders via various governing bodies today including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), Regional Training Providers and the Remote Vocational Training Scheme.

As a result of the *Medical Officers' (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 1) 2005*, Rural Generalist Medicine was recognised by the State as a generalist discipline in May 2008.

Dr Manahan said a Rural Generalist was defined as a rural medical practitioner who was credentialed to serve in hospital and community-based primary medical practice.



“They are also credentialed to serve in a hospital-based secondary medical practice without supervision by a medical specialist in at least one specialist medical discipline (commonly but not limited to obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery) and in a hospital and community-based public health practice,” Dr Manahan said.

The RGP currently supports 42 post graduate year (PGY) one trainees, 38 PGY2 Trainees, 20 PGY3 three Trainees, 21 PGY4 Trainees and 33 PGY5+ Trainees.

Dr Manahan said from 2010 entry to the RGP via the direct entry for undergraduates process now accommodates 45 graduate positions, an increase of 15 additional quarantined Rural Generalist Intern training positions from the original cohort in 2007.

For information please contact the Rural Generalist Pathway Team at the Cunningham Centre on 4616 6947 or visit <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ruralgeneralist/>