

Media release
12 October 2022

Rural doctors arrive in Canberra in near record numbers for major conference...and “biggest reunion ever”

Rural Medicine Australia 2022
12-15 October 2022, Canberra
<https://rma.acrrm.org.au>
#RMA22

After three years and two cancelled Rural Medicine Australia (RMA) conferences – with much of the time in between spent in isolation or PPE – Australia’s rural doctors are arriving in Canberra in droves to reconnect at the RMA22 conference, being held this week.

Close to 1000 rural doctors, medical students and other delegates are attending RMA22, making it one of the biggest RMA conferences ever held – and one of the biggest reunions for rural doctors across the country.

The event is co-hosted by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), and gets underway with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. The main conference program begins on Thursday, with the conference running through to Saturday afternoon.

In advance of the conference, some rural doctors have arrived early in Canberra to attend critical upskilling courses in Rural Emergency Skills Training, Rural Anaesthetic Crisis Management, Advanced Life Support, and Pre-Hospital Emergency Care.

Other courses being held around the conference include Rural Emergency Obstetrics Training and Mental Health Disorders Training for Rural Practitioners.

RDAA President, Dr Megan Belot (pictured left), said: “It’s been a long three years in the wilderness for many rural and remote doctors, during which time they have battled the COVID pandemic in their communities, as well as ongoing medical workforce shortages.

“We are really thrilled to have been able to get to the point where we can convene face-to-face again, as this annual event is such an important one for Australia’s rural doctors to reconnect, attend critical medical upskilling sessions, and discuss key policy issues impacting the profession, general practices and rural communities.”

ACRRM President, Dr Sarah Chalmers (pictured right), said: “The excitement that has been building in the rural medical community for RMA22 has been enormous. With a new Federal Government elected and a Federal Budget just around the corner, Canberra is the place to be – and



for many rural doctors, who appreciate that state and federal health policy has significant impact on access to healthcare services in local rural communities, the importance of meeting in the nation's capital is not missed.

“We look forward to seeing many current and future rural doctors at RMA22, not only to reconnect at some great social events, but to take the chance to discuss and raise the big issues that will shape the future of our profession, and the future of local healthcare in the bush.”

Media are welcome to attend most sessions at RMA22, but must pre-register in advance by contacting one of the RMA Media Team on the contact numbers below.

Find the full program for RMA22 by clicking here:

<https://bit.ly/3d73ksG>

Find the full keynote speaker list for RMA22 by clicking here:

<https://rma.acrrm.org.au/program/speakers>

A high resolution photo of Dr Megan Belot can be found here:

<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/2139>

A high resolution photo of Dr Sarah Chalmers can be found here:

<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/1291>

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