

Rural and Remote Medicine Conference 2025

12-14 September 🍁 Darwin



Media release

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NT stars to shine at rural at Darwin health conference

NT Rural and Remote Medicine Conference

12-14 September 2025

Novotel, Darwin CBD

Exciting opportunities, challenging medicine and NT doctors taking on the world will feature at this week's NT Rural and Remote Health Conference.

Hosted by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia – NT Chapter (RDAA-NT) and with huge support from within the health sector, this is an exciting opportunity for NT doctors to upskill, hear about the big changes happening in the rural health sector, and celebrate all things NT medicine.

Conference Convener and RDAA CEO Peta Rutherford said that there really would be something for everyone at the event.

“We are excited to be able to celebrate some of the great NT doctors who are taking the lead on the national stage,” **Ms Rutherford** said.

“We will hear from **Dr Stephen Gourley**, an Alice Springs Emergency Medicine specialist who is the President of the Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), as well as our own RDAA President Elect **Dr Sarah Chalmers**, based here in Darwin, who is also a Past President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

“These two doctors are an example of how a career in the NT can lead onto amazing opportunities and important national leadership roles.

“Also addressing the conference will be the President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) **Dr Rod Martin**, the Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) **Dr Michael Clements**, and Assistant Minister for Rural Health the **Hon. Emma McBride**.

“The program is varied with clinical updates, an important session on NT workforce planning, a Ministerial Address and sessions for junior doctors and medical students,” Ms Rutherford said.

The program includes:

NT focus:

- NT doctors on the national stage (Dr Stephen Gourley ACEM President, Dr Sarah Chalmers RDAA President Elect and former ACRRM President)
- Culturally safe supervision
- Improving recruitment and retention in the NT

- RG Recognition and what it means for the NT (ACRRM CEO Marita Cowie, RACGP Rural Chair Dr Michael Clements, NTRG Dr Thomas Quigley)

For doctors in training:

- Training and career advice – so many options (NTRGP, ACRRM, RACGP, RVTS, NT Health)
- Primary and secondary assessment workshop
- Introduction to suturing
- Life hacks – surviving life as an early career doctor & getting set up for a great life as a senior rural/remote doctor.

Clinical/general sessions:

- The scary airway
- Concussion and return to play
- ADHD in the Territory (adults, children and self care)
- Rethinking Quality and Safety
- Veteran's health update
- Introduction to advocacy (from the NT to the world!)

“As this is the first time hosting this event, we are keen to ensure we offer a program that will attract attendees from across the NT and also from medical student to senior doctors,” Ms Rutherford said.

“We look forward to building on this and taking the NT Rural and Remote Health Conference to other locations within the NT annually.”

[See the full program here.](#)

[Register to attend](#)

Available for interview:

Ms Peta Rutherford, RDAA CEO & Conference Convener
Dr Sarah Chalmers, RDAA President Elect

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