

RDAQ2023 turning talk into action

8 June 2023

The big issues facing rural and remote medicine will go under the microscope at the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) annual conference getting underway in Cairns today.

While the program is packed with insightful, educational and entertaining presentations and discussions, the Association is adamant it's much more than a talk fest.

This year's conference has attracted rural doctors from across the state in record numbers, as well as representation by key policy makers and politicians.

New Queensland Health Minister The Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP will attend tonight's opening sessions while Senator the Hon. Ann Ruston, and Shadow Health Minister Ros Bates MP will also attend across the weekend.

RDAQ President Dr Matt Masel, a Rural Generalist Obstetrician based in Goondiwindi, said the time had come for real, informed, and collaborative actions.

"The days of blame shifting and denying responsibility are over," Dr Masel said.

"We need all levels of government to act now to ensure Queenslanders have access to the health care they need and deserve," he said.

"Workforce concerns, long overdue equivalency for rural doctors, the viability of rural General Practice and of course, the dire situation with maternity services are all in need of composed, collaborative action, now.

"We all have a role to play in creating change and this conference will bring those with frontline knowledge and experience together with those who can enact change, which is a powerful combo."

The conference program, themed 'Medicine in the Extreme' gets underway tonight with the opening keynote by psychologist and psychological scientist Professor Kimberley Norris addressing the role of education, empowerment and energising experiences in shaping resilience.

Other conference highlights include:

- Pre-conference skills workshops
- Rural workforce forum
- Critical discussions on Indigenous healthcare
- RDAQ Peer Networks – setting the advocacy agenda
- The return of 'The Great Debate'
- Rural Maternity Plenary

RDAQ2023 is on from 8 to 10 June at Cairns Convention Centre. Full program - [HERE](#)