



Media Statement

8 January 2026

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine joins the Health Professionals Network as Associate Partner

Rural Health West is pleased to welcome the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) as an Associate Partner of the Health Professionals Network (HPNs), strengthening a shared commitment to building a connected, supported and sustainable rural health workforce.

ACRRM, a college dedicated solely to rural and remote medicine, brings deep expertise in training, supporting and advocating for doctors working in some of the State's most isolated communities.

The partnership comes at a significant moment in the Network's growth, with the HPNs recently reaching a major milestone of 5,000 members statewide. This expanding community of practice continues to create new opportunities for collaboration, professional support and shared learning across Western Australia's health system.

ACRRM President, Dr Rod Martin said joining the Network aligned strongly with the College's mission.

"This partnership will strengthen the College's engagement with its future and current members and the communities they serve," Dr Martin said.

"Our Rural Generalist doctors deserve strong, localised support networks that understand the unique challenges of practising in the bush and enable them to deliver the high-quality healthcare their communities deserve."

Rural Health West General Manager Education and Engagement, Leesa Thomas, welcomed ACRRM's involvement.

"We are thrilled to have ACRRM join us as an Associate Partner," Leesa said.

"The College has a long-standing dedication to strengthening rural medicine in Australia. Their leadership and training expertise will be invaluable as we continue to grow the Network and support health professionals across WA.

"Reaching 5,000 members statewide is a significant milestone for the HPNs, and the addition of ACRRM further strengthens our collective ability to build a connected and resilient rural health workforce."

The HPN program continues to grow with the support of sector-wide partners including Rural Health West, WA Country Health Service, WA Primary Health Alliance, St John WA, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Rural Clinical School of WA, University Departments of Rural Health, local health organisations and a wide range of associate and regional partners.

For more information about the Health Professionals Network, visit www.ruralhealthwest.com.au

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Belinda Baws, Rural Health West

08 6389 4500

Petrina Smith, Media Manager ACRRM

0414 820 847

Rural Health West aims to improve access to quality healthcare for rural communities through the provision of a highly skilled, motivated and sustainable medical and allied health workforce. We are a not-for-profit organisation primarily funded through the WA Country Health Service and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.