



## Statement of Intent

This Statement of Intent responds to the Statement of Expectations issued to the National Rural Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) by the Former Minister for Regional Health, the Hon Mark Coulton MP, 23 March 2021. It is a formal commitment from the Commissioner to meet the expectations of the Minister.

Included in the Statement of Intent of the Commissioner is the requirement for two appointed Deputy Commissioners to act on key priorities outlined within the Statement of Intent using their clinical expertise.

## Priorities for the Deputy Rural Health Commissioner Adjunct Professor Faye McMillan

- Work closely with the Department and key stakeholders to explore and progress the recommendations of the Improving Access, Quality and Distribution of Allied Health Services report by a. Working closely with the Chief Allied Health Officer to progress the recommendations of the report including holding a national workshop to progress Recommendation 1: Service and Learning Consortia.
- Establish links with other departmental health and workforce reforms including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan, including
  - Working with the Indigenous Health Division of the department to progress Recommendation 2 of the Allied Health Report and abovementioned plans to:
    - provide high quality education and employment opportunities to the emerging Aboriginal health workforce
    - provide high quality culturally safe and responsive services to rural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
    - provide high quality cultural competency training in allied health curricula through the formation of a Leaders in Allied Health Training and Education Network (equivalent to LIME)
- Working with Indigenous Allied Health Australia to progress the Academy Model (Recommendation 2 and included in the above-mentioned plans), investigate other models that support the career aspirations and in-situ training opportunities for Regional, Rural and Remote communities.
- Working with the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) to ensure national rural health strategy considers the high value contribution and unique opportunities these

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforces provide in the health care of rural communities.

- Improving rural training opportunities and attracting and retaining a sustainable rural workforce through existing government programs including the:
- Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program by ensuring:
  - Rural allied health placements are high quality and for longer durations and include opportunities for high quality placements in ACCHOs and providers in MMM3-7 where all hosts are provided with support from UDRHs to achieve high quality placement opportunities
  - Cultural competency training in mainstream allied health curricular and rural training and placement
  - Allied Health Rural Generalist Program
    - By meeting with SARRAH through formal processes including representing the ONRHC on the Strategic Committee of the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway with focus on rolling out the scholarship program to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.
- National Community Pharmacy Agreement with specific focus on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship program
  - By liaising with the Pharmacy Guild leadership and Aboriginal Policy lead to increase the uptake of scholarship places

### Stakeholder Relationships

The Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner will represent the Commissioner and Office by engaging with key allied health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations and representatives including those described above as well as:

- Australian Allied Health Leadership Forum (AAHLF)
- Allied Health Professionals Australia (AHPA)
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (NACCHO) and affiliates
- Profession specific allied health associations
- Australian Rural Health Education Network (AHREN)
- National Allied Health Advisors and Chiefs (NAHAC)

The DNRHC will increase awareness of the work and the Commissioner and Office by engaging with state and territory governments, relevant University Departments, Australian Medical Association and health consumer groups and the Australian Department of Health.

Engaging a strength based holistic approach to support the Commissioner and the Office to deliver on key priorities that enhance the health and wellbeing of Regional, Rural and Remote Australia.