



Australian Government

Department of Health

RHMT PROGRAM EVALUATION – EXPERT REFERENCE GROUP

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FEBRUARY 2020

- The Expert Reference Group (ERG) supporting the evaluation of the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program met on 20 February 2020 in Melbourne.
- The evaluators, Kristine Battye Consulting Australia, presented a working draft evaluation report to ERG members, including initial findings and recommendations.
- The evaluators informed members that the RHMT Program is successfully delivering rural training, contributing to the rural health workforce, and to the social and economic strength of rural communities. They also highlighted factors external to, but impacting on, the outcomes of the RHMT Program.
- ERG members commended the evaluators on the working draft report, acknowledging the complexities of both the RHMT Program and the health workforce environment.
- ERG members agreed on the significance of the RHMT Program, noting its longstanding presence and funding over the past 20 years.
- This meeting provided useful feedback to the evaluators on their working draft report. There was constructive dialogue on the key elements of the RHMT Program and key issues such as individual's decisions to practise rurally.
- This was the last face-to-face meeting of the ERG, and both the department and the evaluators acknowledged the expert advice provided by members throughout the different phases of the evaluation.
- A final report is due to the Department in April 2020 and will then be considered by Minister Coulton and Minister Hunt. Following Ministerial consideration, the department will consult extensively with key stakeholders to guide future policy change and implementation.
- Publication and release of the Report is a decision of Government.

**RHMT PROGRAM EVALUATION – EXPERT REFERENCE GROUP
MEMBERS**

Associate Professor Susan Wearne, Senior Medical Advisor, Health Workforce Division,
Department of Health (Chair)

Professor David Atkinson, Clinical Lead, Regional Training Hubs, University of Western
Australia

Ms Renee Blackman, Chief Executive Officer, Gidgee Healing

Councillor Anita Campbell, Central Highlands Council, Tasmania

Professor Tim Carey, previously Director of the Centre for Remote Health, Alice Springs.
Currently Executive Director of Research and Andrew Weiss Chair in Global Health Research,
the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda

Professor Brendan Crotty, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health, Deakin University

Mr Harry Jude, Medical Student, University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney

Professor Michelle Leech, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences,
Monash University

Professor Esther May, Dean of Health and Clinical Education, University of South Australia

Professor Jennifer May, Director, Department of Rural Health, University of Newcastle

Dr Paul Myhill, Senior Medical Advisor, WA Department of Health

Associate Professor Peter O'Mara, Head of Discipline, Indigenous Health, University of
Newcastle

Professor Ian Wronski, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Division of Tropical Health and Medicine,
James Cook University