



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

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

### **SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AUGUST 2019**

- The Expert Reference Group guiding the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program evaluation met by videoconference on Thursday 1 August 2019.
- The primary focus of the meeting was to finalise the approach on a workforce survey of medical, nursing and midwifery, allied health and dental professionals that was proposed as a means to assess the rural workforce outcomes of the program.
- ERG members provided constructive feedback regarding the proposed medical workforce survey, noting a number of other surveys are already underway and there is a risk of survey fatigue and a low response rate. Members discussed the availability of other data sources to assess rural workforce outcomes for this profession.
- Taking into account the ERG's views, the department and the evaluators agreed that the proposed workforce survey would be targeted to nursing and midwifery, allied health and dental professionals who graduated between 2008 and 2018.
- The evaluators will be piloting the survey in the coming weeks, and will be seeking the assistance of a range of organisations to publicise and disseminate the survey to the target group.
- In response to the ERG's feedback at the July meeting, the evaluators presented an expanded list of site visits planned for the consultation phase. The revised plan incorporates visits to a rural campus of each university participating in the program. These consultations will commence in mid-August. The evaluators will also be inviting peak bodies to provide written submissions.
- Both Department representatives and the evaluators appreciated the expert advice provided by members regarding the complexities of measuring workforce outcomes delivered by the program.