Rural General Practice Grants Program

This measure will better support rural general practices to teach and train the next generation of health workers for country Australia. It redesigns the Rural and Regional Teaching Infrastructure Grants (RRTIG) Program to create a more streamlined Rural General Practice Grants Program (RGPGP). Grants will help deliver improved rural health services through additional infrastructure, increased levels of teaching and training, and more opportunities to inform rural communities about healthy living.

Why is this important?

- The new program will remove a number of barriers identified as causes of poor take-up of the RRTIG program.
- Grants of up to $300,000 will be provided to successful applicants and applicants will continue to be required to match the Commonwealth funding contribution.
- The program will expand the types of entities that can apply for grants, and broaden the types of health practitioners that can use additional infrastructure provided through grants.
- A requirement for new building work to be physically attached to existing premises will be relaxed.
- The program will include a more streamlined application process to reduce the administrative burden on applicants.

Who will benefit?

- General practice in rural Australia faces unique challenges in providing healthcare and attracting and retaining a health workforce. This program will provide more opportunities for medical students to experience rural practice, and for practitioners to develop experience in training and supervising healthcare workers.
- Patients in rural areas will receive improved rural health services through additional infrastructure, such as fit-outs and renovations of existing general practices, and equipment upgrades such as new IT systems.
- Patients will have access to skilled GPs, allied health professionals, Aboriginal health practitioners and nursing practitioners, with increased levels of teaching and training.
- Rural communities will be made more aware of the benefits of healthy living.
- General practices in rural areas will better attract health professionals and healthcare workers by offering them quality teaching and training.

How much will this cost?

Funded through existing resources.