Ref No: MS22-001120

Adjunct Professor Ruth Stewart

National Rural Health Commissioner

[NRHC@health.gov.au](mailto:NRHC@health.gov.au)

Dear Adjunct Professor

Congratulations on your reappointment as National Rural Health Commissioner (NRHC). The Australian Government is pleased to provide you with the Statement of Expectations (SOE) for the term of your re-appointment (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024).

In a prosperous country like ours, there is no more important role than ensuring access to affordable and high-quality care. Our health system has excellent foundations and world-class health professionals. The pandemic has highlighted the need for new investment and energy in primary care, including strengthening Medicare. This is particularly critical for our rural and remote communities.

The Government is acting quickly to ensure Australians can access care, where and when they need it. It has a strong commitment to finding sustainable solutions to the health challenges faced by Australians in regional, rural and remote communities.

The SOE, and your responding Statement of Intent, are key elements of sound governance. Your Statement of Intent should outline how you plan to deliver, and the activities needed to meet the SOE. The SOE and your response complement the requirements for the NRHC as set out in Part VA of the Health Insurance Act (1973). In the interest of transparency and public accountability, once approved, this letter and your response are to be published on the Office of the NRHC website.

I look forward to working closely with you to improve health outcomes in regional, rural and remote Australia during your appointment.

Yours sincerely

Emma McBride

21/ 12 /2022

Encl (1)

cc: The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care