



Strengthening Primary Care – innovative models of primary care to address rural workforce shortages

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring all Australians can access quality health care, when and where they need it. This Budget provides funding to test new primary care models across western and southern New South Wales, providing local health services to rural communities.

Each model will reflect local needs and take a multi-disciplinary approach to create efficient, co-ordinated networks of GPs, nurses, and other health providers to deliver local services. The aim for each model is to demonstrate how new and flexible approaches can help alleviate workforce shortages and establish sustainable models of service delivery in rural communities.

The suite of new primary care models has been identified based on their readiness for implementation. These projects are the product of collaboration between local Primary Health Networks, state government health districts, and local medical leaders. Outcomes from testing these new models will inform options for wider primary care reforms across rural Australia.

The National Rural Health Commissioner will play an integral role in the implementation and evaluation.

Why is this important?

Australians should have access to high quality health care – regardless where they live. Too often, rural and remote Australians face difficulty accessing the health care they need. This program is an important part of creating an integrated rural health workforce.

A stronger, integrated rural health workforce will improve the health outcomes for people in rural communities, better reflect how modern primary care is to be delivered across a region, and eliminate the need to travel great distances to access primary care.

The Government is committed to delivering rurally-focused health programs and reforms to give rural and remote Australians improved access to essential health services.

Who will benefit?

This will improve access to health services for patients across western and southern NSW and create an attractive environment for rural health professionals. Outcomes will guide future approaches to improving health outcomes for the seven million people who call rural and remote Australia home.

How much will this cost?

This will cost \$3.3 million from 2020–21 to 2021–22.

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