



Guaranteeing Medicare – John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program

The Australian Government will invest \$12.4 million to expand opportunities for early-career doctors to work in rural communities while they complete their medical training through the new John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP).

This measure will:

- consolidate existing funding for Rural Junior Doctor Training Innovation Fund Core and Rural Generalist programs, which will increase rural primary care rotations from 440 (110 FTE) in 2022, to 800 (200 FTE) by 2025, and
- expand eligibility of the JFPDP to prevocational doctors in their first 5 postgraduate years and deliver new rural primary care rotations for metropolitan hospital-based early-career doctors.

Why is this important?

Evidence shows if you train in the regions you are more likely to stay in the regions. This is why the Government continues to invest in and build the rural training pipeline.

The junior doctor years are a key point in deciding which medical career path to take. The new program will provide greater exposure to rural medicine and general practice for aspiring rural doctors.

The high demand among early-career doctors for rural placements results in almost 100% of rural internships being filled. An additional 360 early-career doctors will experience rural general practice, through the JFPDP, provide opportunities to live and work in rural communities.

Who will benefit?

Early-career doctors will have more opportunities to remain in the rural communities where they want to live and work while they complete their medical training and establish their careers.

More rural communities will benefit from increased delivery of health services and a more stable, locally-trained workforce.

Rural general practices will be able to operate as teaching units for medical students, early-career doctors and General Practitioner registrars.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$12.4 million over 4 years, from 2021–22.