



Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC)

Communiqué – 1 October 2021

The Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) met via videoconference on Friday 1 October 2021. The National Medical Workforce Strategy (the Strategy) was endorsed by the Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee (MWRAC) at the meeting on 13 August 2021, following further consultation with some members.

MWRAC Co-chair, Professor May, noted the Strategy was progressing towards seeking endorsement from Health Ministers and discussion would focus on initial consideration of priorities for implementation (without pre-empting decisions of governments). A workshop was facilitated for members to provide feedback on their view of the highest priorities for initial implementation of the Strategy. Priorities raised by members during the workshop included geographic maldistribution, governance arrangements, COVID-19 impacts and learnings, data, training pathways, growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, and supporting rural generalism.

Members also commented on the importance of data to support the implementation of the Strategy, including to support: evidence based decision making; measuring progress and outcomes; and working collaboratively. MWRAC Co-Chair, Ms Shakespeare advised there would be further opportunities for the Committee to discuss the approach to initial implementation and governance arrangements, and that all key stakeholders would be required to collaborate and make decisions about their programs.

Professor Ruth Stewart, the National Rural Health Commissioner, presented on the linkages between the work of the MWRAC and the Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner (ONRHC). In her presentation, Professor Stewart provided statistics on GPs in rural and remote areas and highlighted the importance of rural generalism in Australia.

In closing the meeting, Ms Shakespeare advised an update on the progress of endorsement of the Strategy would be provided at the next MWRAC meeting, as well as a presentation on the specialist training accreditation review.