



Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan – Stronger Rural Health Strategy – Medical Education and Training

The Australian Government is investing \$152.5 million as part of our commitment to build a stronger health workforce in rural, regional and remote communities.

This funding continues the important work under the \$550 million *Stronger Rural Health Strategy* and builds on previous investment in training doctors and other medical professionals in rural areas, through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program.

University Departments of Rural Health

The Government is investing \$36.2 million to establish two new University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) in the South West (Edith Cowan University) and Goldfields (Curtin University) regions of Western Australia, as part of our support for allied health, nursing and medical training in the bush.

This initiative funds the expansion of the RHMT program, which currently has a national network of 19 Rural Clinical Schools, 17 UDRHs and 26 hubs.

UDRHs provide training to students across a range of health disciplines and settings, including aged care, disability and rehabilitation services, childcare, schools, community facilities, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.

Rural Medical Education and Training places

\$114.2 million will build training and education opportunities in rural regions. This will build a sustainable, high-quality health workforce and establish a Rural Clinical School at Charles Sturt University.

Vivian Bullwinkel Nursing Scholarships

As a related measure, the Australian Government is providing \$1 million as a matching co-contribution for the Bullwinkel Scholars, establishing 21 scholarships through the Australian College of Nursing which will support nurses seeking to further their professional development in leadership.

Why is this important?

UDRHs provide multidisciplinary health services and improved health outcomes to their local communities while students complete supervised clinical training placements.

The RHMT program supports teaching and training in rural, regional and remote areas to at least as high a standard as in the cities. The program has been evaluated and shown to deliver more health graduates working in rural, regional and remote areas.

Who will benefit?

The expansion of the RHMT program through two new UDRHs will encourage more graduating health professionals to practice in the South West and Goldfields regions of WA.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$152.5 million over four years from 2022–23 to 2025–26.