



Australian College of
Rural & Remote Medicine
WORLD LEADERS IN RURAL PRACTICE



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

November 2020

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to describe the relationship between the **Rural Generalist Program of Japan (RGPJ)** and the **Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)** and to set out a framework for cooperation and coordination which will assist both organisations in their respective countries:

- to promote Rural Generalist medical practice
- to support Rural Generalist medicine education
- to increase the skilled medical workforce available in rural and remote communities, and ultimately,
- to improve health outcomes in rural and remote communities.

This Agreement confirms their intention to work together with mutual respect to foster collaboration and achieve common goals. This Agreement is not intended to represent a legal or binding contract.

RGPJ and ACRRM will give action to this shared intent by:

Recognising ACRRM as:

- The peak professional body in Australia for practitioners of Rural Generalist medicine
- An accredited specialist medical college responsible for setting curriculum and standards for postgraduate medical training and education for general practitioners in Australia in a manner appropriate for rural and remote practice, and
- A key partner in promoting and advancing Rural Generalist medicine, nationally and internationally

Recognising the RGPJ as:

- Delivering a vocational training program in accordance with ACRRM standards, and
- A key partner in promoting and advancing Rural Generalist medicine, nationally and internationally

2. THE ORGANISATIONS

The RGPJ has been established to provide training in the professional skill set appropriate for generalist medical practice in rural and remote areas. It will promote the concept of Rural Generalism to Japan; establish it as a specialty; and generate interest and promote rural medicine. These activities will aim to positively contribute to increasing the supply of an appropriately trained rural medical workforce; improved access to healthcare; and improved health outcomes for rural and remote areas in Japan.

ACRRM is accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) to set professional medical standards for training and continuing professional development in the specialty of general practice. The College programs have been designed to train doctors to the broader, extended and unique scope of practice that enables best practice in rural and remote locations. The ACRRM Fellowship qualification reflects attainment of the essential skills for practice as a Rural Generalist.

ACRRM is committed to delivering sustainable, high-quality health services to rural and remote communities by providing:

- quality education and professional development programs
- setting standards for best practice rural and remote medicine
- support, networking and representation for doctors who serve rural communities and to medical students considering careers in rural medicine, and

- taking a leadership role internationally in advancing understanding, recognition and provision of medical best practice for the world's rural and remote communities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Rural Generalist Medicine is defined as per the Cairns Consensus Statement on Rural Generalist Medicine, 2014.

We define Rural Generalist Medicine as the provision of a broad scope of medical care by a doctor in the rural context that encompasses the following:

- *Comprehensive primary care for individuals, families and communities*
- *Hospital in-patient care and/or related secondary medical care in the institutional, home or ambulatory setting*
- *Emergency care*
- *Extended and evolving service in one or more areas of focused cognitive and/or procedural practice as required to sustain needed health services locally among a network of colleagues*
- *A population health approach that is relevant to the community*
- *Working as part of a multi-professional and multi-disciplinary team of colleagues, both local and distant, to provide services within a 'system of care' that is aligned and responsive to community needs.*

4. ROLES

ACRRM and RGPJ will commit to a respectful, collegiate and supportive approach to this agreement, recognising the range of obligations and responsibilities of each party. They will work cooperatively and collaboratively to identify opportunities and strategies to progress their common goals. This will include recognition of the areas of respective expertise and interests of each organisation to achieve the best possible outcomes for all parties.

Each organisation will maintain its independence and autonomy under the terms of this agreement, including the right of either organisation to independent action or opinion on any issue.

5. COLLABORATION

Areas for collaboration may include, but are not limited to:

5.1 ACRRM standards for RGPJ

The RGPJ vocational training programs will be certified to meet ACRRM standards and successful completion of the programs will be recognised by the College. Standards may be set to a range of certification levels as appropriate to the training program.

5.2 Sharing of educational resources and activities:

ACRRM and RGPJ will endeavour to support each other's vocational training programs. This may include arrangements such as provision of ACRRM educational resources, professional advice and expertise, collaboration in research and evaluation, and facilitated registrar exchanges involving supervisors from both programs.

5.3 Rural Generalist Conferences:

Members/participants in both organisations will endeavour to engage with the international program of conferences on rural health and Rural Generalist Medicine including the RMA

Conferences, WONCA World Rural Health Conferences and the Rural Generalist Summits.

6. REVIEW

ACRRM and RGPJ will formally review the operation of this MoU after a period of one year with a view to improving its operation and ensuring that it remains relevant to the needs and circumstances of each organisation.

The MoU will also be subject to ongoing informal monitoring. It can be amended at any time by agreement of both Parties.

SIGNATORIES