

Supporting multi-professional care for rural and remote communities

Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway

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Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway

- Collaborative work between state / territory health services & key agencies since 2013

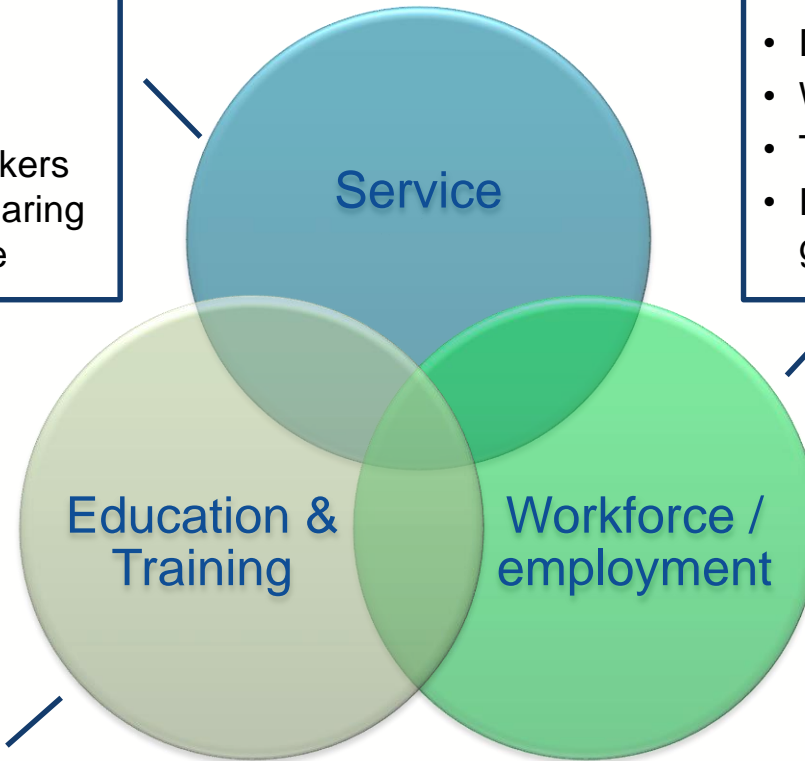


The rural health

drivers

- Rural health challenges are well described
- Support rural & remote communities to improve health outcomes
- Accessible, clinically effective, value for money ***multi-professional team-based healthcare.***
- Fit for purpose, sustainable, generalist workforce in the allied health professions

- Broad clinical service needs
- Care closer to home
- Rural service delivery:
 - telehealth
 - delegation to support workers
 - extended scope & skill sharing
 - partnerships & share care



- Designated training positions
- Work-based learning
- Training support: \$, time
- Progression linked to rural generalist capabilities

- Formal rural generalist education program
 - profession-specific
 - inter-professional
 - skill sharing (trans-professional)
- Accreditation standards

Rural Generalist Pathway

RG Training stage

- **Role**
Early career role (0-3 year)
- **Support / supervision**
Co-located, profession-specific supervisor
- **Education & training**
Level 1 Rural Generalist Program
Intensive workplace support
0.1 – 0.2 FTE allocated time

RG Development stage

- **Role**
2+ years
Greater independence in complex decision-making
Increasing clinical leadership
- **Support / supervision**
Profession-specific and inter-professional, onsite or 'remote'
- **Education & training**
Level 2 Rural Generalist Program
Increasing individual responsibility
~0.1 FTE allocated time

Rural Generalist

- **Role**
'Proficient Rural Generalist' with clinical leadership in the service
+/- extended scope
+/- complex practice
- **Support / supervision**
Mentoring for leadership skills
Practice supervision (ext scope)
Supervise RG trainees
- **Education & training**
Extended scope / complex practice training programs
Leadership and management
Education and research
Dual responsibility of individual and employer



A new physiotherapy telehealth service to remote facilities saved 2940km of client travel in a 12 month period.

Better use of support workers



Utilisation of allied health assistants for delegated physiotherapy tasks increased by 35% between 2014 and 2016 in a rural hospital.



Clinical outcomes from a rural physiotherapy telehealth clinic supported by allied health assistants were at least equivalent to traditional face-to-face services.



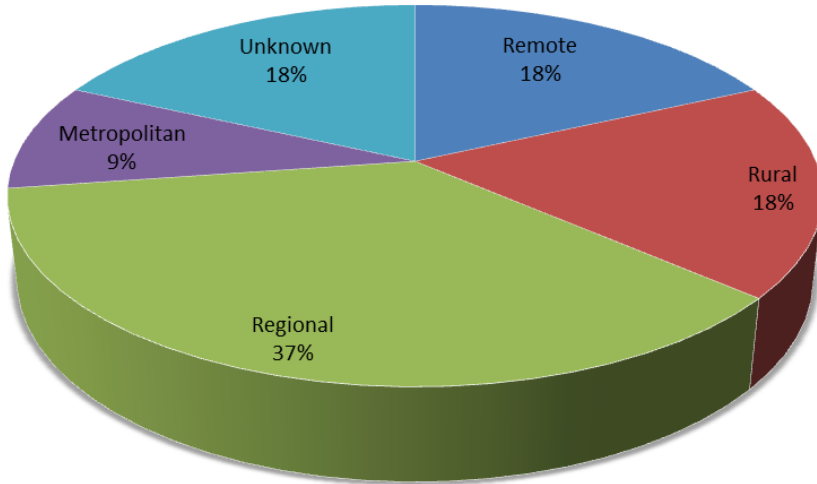
A new speech pathology telehealth clinic to a remote facility reduced patient waiting time by over ten weeks.

Queensland Health. Rural generalist training site reports (2014-16)

www.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac

Workforce

Employment destination 6 months after separation from temporary AHRG Training Positions (n=22) (Qld Health, 2017)



If the purpose of these positions is to recruit people to work in rural and remote locations, then it served its purpose because I want to stay working out here.

(2014 AHRG trainee)

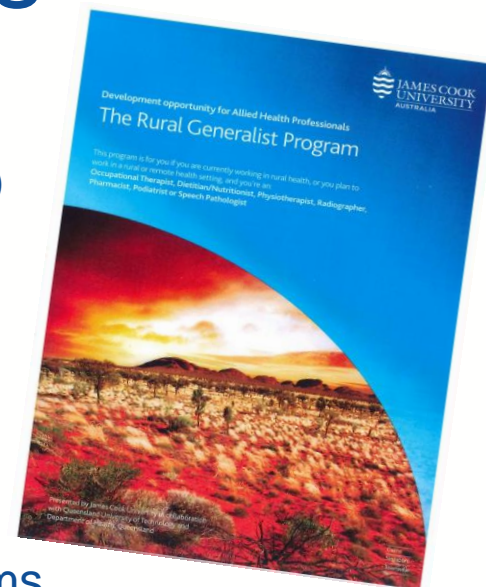
Education & Training

- James Cook University in partnership with QUT
 - 2017-19 evaluated trial of education program (7 professions)
 - Level 1 Rural Generalist Program: 12 six-week modules, work-integrated reflecting local context / needs
 - Level 2 Graduate Diploma in Rural Generalist Practice

www.jcu.edu.au/rgp

- Accreditation standards and system for education programs
 - Project Jan-Jun 2018 (AHHA)

<https://ahha.asn.au/allied-health-rural-generalist>





Rural generalist training positions
(Graduate) 30 positions

nutrition & dietetics
speech pathology
occupational therapy
radiography

podiatry
pharmacy
physiotherapy
social work



Rural generalist development positions
(2+ years) 12 positions

occupational therapy
physiotherapy

pharmacy
psychology

Challenges and scaling up

- Awareness raising, building profile and understanding
- Resourcing for national coordination and development
- Funding for allied health rural training not well configured for Rural Generalist Trainees (scholarships, RHMT)
- Healthcare providers and commissioning agencies investment in implementation (HR/industrial, culture, training, leadership)

***The components are available...
just need to put them together locally and nationally***

Resources and information for R&R services

- Information and implementation resources
 - Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland www.health.qld.gov.au/ahwac
 - SARRAH (AHRGP national lead agency) www.sarrah.org.au/ahrgp
 - James Cook University www.jcu.edu.au/rgp

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