

27 October 2017

Professor Paul Worley
National Rural Health Commissioner



Dear Professor Worley

Appointment – National Rural Health Commissioner

On behalf of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Australia's first National Rural Health Commissioner. Your deep passion for rural health and your commitment to improving health services for people who live outside the major cities are well known to Medical Deans. Your experience, knowledge and understanding of the issues will be invaluable in your role as a champion for rural health.

The poorer health outcomes for people living in remote, rural and regional Australia is unacceptable and tackling the maldistribution of the health workforce is a critical priority. Despite decades of State and Commonwealth programs, it remains a key workforce challenge to address the concentration of doctors in major cities; the imbalance between sub specialists and "generalist specialists"; and to implement models of care that can meet changing community needs. Medical Deans know you understand our strong commitment to increasing regionally based, specialist training opportunities as one of the solutions.

Medical Deans entirely concurs with Assistant Minister David Gillespie's description of you as "a determined, effective and passionate advocate for strengthening rural health outcomes across Australia". Medical Deans looks forward to working with you in your new role and will be in contact to arrange to meet with you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Professor Richard Murray
President
Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand

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