

## **RURAL & REMOTE HEALTH ACTION RESEARCH AGENDA**

There is a substantial body of research to demonstrate the important role of GP-led integrated primary health and hospital care in preventing illness, reducing the onset of chronic disease, reducing unnecessary hospitalisation, increasing Years of Life and reducing the cost of healthcare in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. The RARMS Rural and Remote Health Action Research Agenda is informed by, and extends on, the key features of sustainable rural integrated health systems identified by Wakerman\* et al. Our aim is to work with our communities and leading universities and research organisations to identify and address opportunities and barriers to sustainable rural health services with a focus on how we can improve access to high quality care in rural and remote communities incorporating data analytics, Telehealth and remote medicine.

\* Wakerman, et al "Features of effective primary health care models in rural and remote Australia: a case-study analysis" Med J Aust 2009; 191 (2): 88-91. | doi: 10.5694/j.1326-5377.2009.tb02700.x at https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2009/191/2/features-effective-primary-health-care-models-rural-and-remote-australia-case

> A sustainable health and medical workforce pipeline through engagement with education and training and infrastructure that optimies inter professional learning.

> > Trusted governance and leadership structures supported by community and effective multidirectional communication.

Community engagement in the development of local health plans and monitoring performance.

Enabling open access to independent community priorities and monitor health and social data to inform outcomes



Patient & Community Centred Health Care.

Commitment to community accountability from providers.

ocal commitment to participation in planning for a healthy future.

Continuous improvement and quality assurance

24/7 access to rural health care including appropriate use of telehealth to support

Appropriate infrastructure, systems and protocols to ensure high quality primary, hospital and community care.

Effective coordination of primary, hospital, community and human services and resources.

approaches to health and human Interprofessional team based service delivery. Collaborative funding models based on

community health needs

(incorporating social determinants)



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| Projects  |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|   | Developing a<br>new approach to<br>Patient History<br>taking to<br>improve capacity<br>to capture<br>baseline health<br>data and track<br>improvements. | Trial of community led place-based health planning in 3 rural and remote towns. | Collaborative approach to improve clinical and medical training capacity in rural and remote communities. | Trial of GP-<br>Led allied<br>health<br>integrated<br>care using a<br>hybrid<br>telehealth<br>model. | Impact of<br>primary health-<br>led Telehealth<br>care on hospital<br>service quality,<br>safety and<br>stakeholder<br>satisfaction. | Improving access to primary health care and reducing hospitalisations by optimising telehealth for remote and rural Australians. | The role of GP<br>VMOs in<br>continuity of care<br>and the impact<br>on patient safety<br>and quality. |
| Enabling open access to<br>independent health and<br>social data to inform<br>community priorities and<br>monitor outcomes.                                       | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\checkmark}$   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | <b>✓</b>   |
| Commitment to community<br>accountability from<br>providers.  |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Local commitment to<br>participation in planning for<br>a healthy future.   | $\overline{\mathbf{Y}}$   |   |   |  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |  |
| Community engagement in<br>the development of local<br>health plans and<br>monitoring performance.  |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |   |  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |  |
| Trusted governance and<br>leadership structures<br>supported by community<br>and effective<br>multidirectional<br>communication.                                  |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |   |  |  | $\overline{\checkmark}$  |  |
| Continuous improvement<br>and quality assurance   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |
| Appropriate infrastructure,<br>systems and protocols to<br>ensure high quality<br>primary, hospital and<br>community care.  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\checkmark$   |
| Collaborative funding models<br>based on community health<br>needs (incorporating social<br>determinants)   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |   |  |  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |
| A sustainable health and medical workforce pipeline through engagement with education and training and infrastructure that optimises inter professional learning. |   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | $\overline{\checkmark}$  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{V}}$  |
| 24/7 access to rural health<br>care including appropriate use<br>of telehealth to support<br>resident workforce.  |   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |  |  |  | $\overline{\checkmark}$  |
| Effective coordination of<br>primary, hospital, community<br>and human services and<br>resources.   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   |  |  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |
| Interprofessional team-based approaches to health and human service delivery.   |   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$   | <u>~</u>   | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |  | $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  |