

Three initiatives promoting safety and quality in rural and remote practice

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The **Primary Clinical Care Manual** (the PCCM) is the principal clinical reference and policy document for health professionals in rural and remote Queensland, where it is supported by legislation and specific education, training and support for staff. It provides evidence based clinical care guidelines where they may be working in isolation from immediate medical support. The PCCM also provides the authority for appropriately trained and endorsed rural and remote health professionals to engage in advanced practice under the *Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation 1996* by administering and supplying medications which would otherwise require a doctor's order.

The **Chronic Conditions Manual** (CCM) is the statewide clinical practice manual for the prevention and management of common modifiable lifestyle related chronic conditions. The CCM provides a simple, easy to read standardised tool to inform clinical practice. It consolidates national and international evidence based guidelines as well as nationally recommended age related early detection health checks for children and adults. The manual also includes current national recommendations for modifiable lifestyle behaviours and is endorsed by leading local, statewide and national clinical networks, and leading specialists and clinicians in their fields.

The **Pathways to Rural and Remote Orientation and Training** (PaRROT) program has been developed for the multi-cultural, multidisciplinary health team. It supports education, orientation and training of all health care workers in rural, remote and primary health care settings from pre-recruitment to the provision of ongoing care in chronic disease prevention, detection and management in a comprehensive primary health care framework. PaRROT is available as a free online training program with access to supporting resources including workbooks, links to resources and other education programs.

The Rural and Remote Clinical Support Unit (RRCSU) takes pride in the work invested in these three initiatives as they address the full spectrum of patient presentations that may be encountered by rural and remote practitioners. The PCCM deals with acute presentations and immediate treatments and follow up; the CCM supports health staff to respond to chronic conditions over time; the PaRROT Program links the two by providing support and extra information not only on the best use of these manuals, but also relating to working in the rural and remote environment. The RRCSU will showcase not only the structure, content and function of these initiatives, but also the links between them and how they can improve quality and safety for rural and remote health services.