

Rural and Remote Clinical Support Unit (RRCSU)

Supporting safe clinical practice

Rural and Remote Clinical Support Unit (RRCSU)

- Has evolved over 26 years
- Our commitment to improved healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is strongly entrenched into every area of our business
- The RRCSU adopts, develops and refines core high quality products and services that focuses on supporting rural and remote health workforce
- This is achieved by partnering broadly with leading state and national clinical experts, associations, services, networks and bodies
- Effective governance is assured through the utilisation of specialised oversight committees guided by strict Standard Operating Procedures and contemporary National Guidelines

Primary Clinical Care Manual (PCCM)

- During early 1990s rural and remote area doctors identified unsafe clinical practice, poor quality standing orders, poor governance and questionable use of medicines across rural and remote areas of Queensland
- In 1998 the Primary Clinical Care Manual 1st edition was developed by the Rural Health Training Unit to provide consistent safe evidence based practice in the rural and remote health care setting
- Queensland wide distribution commenced in 1999
- The scope of registered nurses was broadened by legislation to lawfully administer and supply medications after completing an approved Clinical Assessments Skills and Quality Use of Medicines program
- The Rural and Isolated Practice Registered Nurse course was developed to provide this training
- The PCCM supports legislation by providing guidelines for comprehensive patient assessments, and Health Management Protocols (HMPs) that satisfies the requirements of the Drug Therapy Protocols (DTPs)
- The PCCM is adopted as the primary policy and clinical guideline across Queensland Health facilities, in rural and remote areas of Victoria, the large rural and remote area Local Health Districts in NSW, across Tasmania and the Australian Defence Forces and is approved for use by the Western Australia Country Health Services
- The PCCM is used by RFDS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services, GPs, NGOs, The Australian Defence Force and National Health Departments to name a few

Chronic Conditions Manual (CCM)

- In 2006 the Chronic Disease Strategy Guidelines 1st edition was developed in response to the recognition that early intervention and prevention of chronic conditions was required in the rural and remote sector
- The Guidelines provided a general guide for best practice
- Its success led to an updated formalised 2nd edition Chronic Disease Guidelines in 2007
- In 2010 a 3rd edition was developed in partnership with RFDS along with Apunipima Cape York Health Council
- The current Chronic Conditions Manual 1st edition was published in 2015 with a companion set of Health Check forms and used as a main reference tool for responding to and managing rural and remote clients with chronic conditions in Australia
- The guides are produced from contemporary evidenced literature and have been developed using best practice frameworks with their use by clinicians as a core aim
- Having access to concise nationally accepted management guidelines to address chronic conditions in a clear, consistent and evidenced manner is a vital part of the client journey towards improved health
- The Chronic Conditions Manual provides a platform for clinicians to support early intervention and prevention of preventable chronic conditions across the lifespan
- The tools and guidelines are supported by evidenced lifestyle behaviour recommendations allowing clinicians to support client health literacy to proactively plan, manage and optimise their health, wellbeing and quality of life while living with one or more chronic health conditions

Pathways to Access Rural and Remote Orientation and Training (PARROT)

- The PARROT program commenced in 2008 in response to the identification of gaps in rural and remote orientation and training
- Launched in 2011
- Provides education and training using a flexible delivery approach for all personnel working in rural and remote health care settings
- Is aligned to the primary health care and chronic disease prevention and management resources developed by the unit
- Is delivered via an online learning environment based on adult learning principles
- Continues to evolve to include rural and remote preventative and acute care training programs in line with contemporary, evidence based practice
- Is freely accessible to healthcare workers in the rural and remote setting
- Provides essential basic information for the new recruit and ongoing education and training for the established clinician
- Evidenced content is reviewed and updated regularly in accordance with clearly defined governance processes