

**5 AUGUST 2019**

# Shaping the future of rural communities

Research plays a leading role in improving the health of people in rural and remote Australia and the call for abstracts is now open for presentations to the [7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium](#), to be held in Alice Springs, 25-26 May 2020.

Expressions of interest are now being sought from researchers whose work can contribute to better health and wellbeing for the 7 million people of rural and remote Australia. The Symposium will provide the opportunity for presentations by early career, emerging and active researchers. This will provide an opportunity to build on and challenge existing knowledge through new thinking and new research agendas, and help pass the baton to the new generation of rural and remote health researchers.

The Symposium's theme is *'Shaping the future'* and the scope of the Symposium is broad. The following list of potential themes provides some of the areas potential speakers might address:

- innovations that have impacted in the field of rural, regional and remote health
- translating research into practice
- the contribution of University Departments of Rural Health and Rural Clinical Schools to the changing face of research and education
- digital health and technology
- reducing rural health inequalities (including adoption of ideas from other sectors)
- data systems to inform development
- the future workforce
- successful models and service designs
- strategies for addressing ecological and social challenges
- evaluation and implementation science.

*The National Rural Health Alliance is Australia's peak non-government organisation for rural and remote health.*

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The critical challenge in the sector is using existing research as well as undertaking new research and knowledge transfer activities that have the potential to transform future health outcomes and service delivery in rural and remote Australia.

“The program is an opportunity for established and emerging researchers in all settings: whether working as policy makers, as clinicians, with rural workforce agencies, as health service managers or in the university sector. Quantitative and qualitative researchers from all such sectors will be able to share and contrast their approaches and plan their future collaboration,” Gabrielle O’Kane, Chief Executive of the Alliance said.

Rogano sessions will again be a feature of the Symposium. These are facilitated presentations that allow individual researchers to present dilemmas they have encountered in their current projects for discussion and scholarly debate, with a view to receiving guidance and feedback from Symposium delegates.

The *7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium* is being organised by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) in collaboration with the Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN), the Federation of Rural Medical Educators (FRAME) and the Lowitja Institute.

For details on the call for abstracts, registration, the program and other information, visit the [7<sup>th</sup> Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium website](#).

The call for abstracts closes on 30 September 2019.

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