



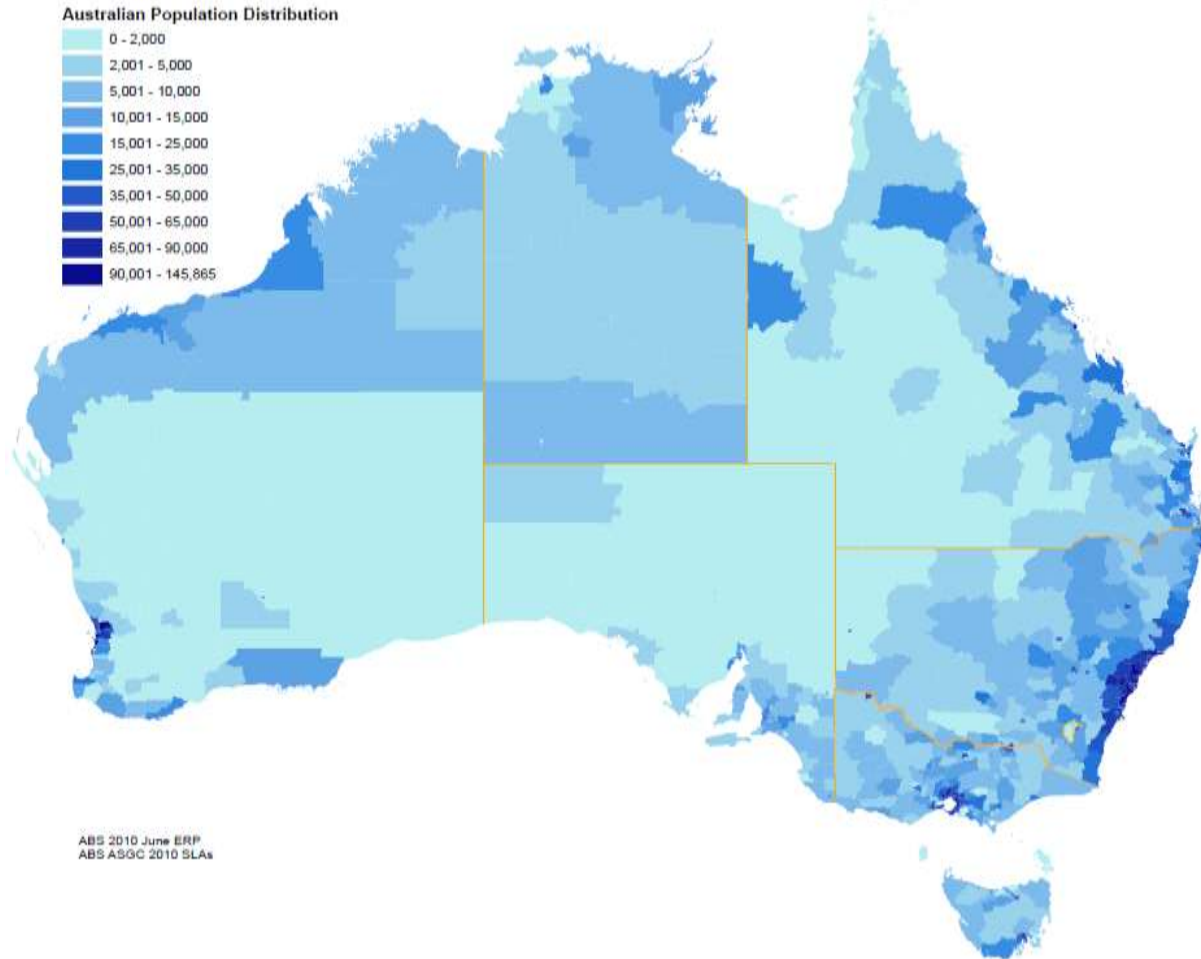
# Rural Health Research Interests of Government

*Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium*

**Samantha Palmer**  
**First Assistant Secretary**  
**Indigenous and Rural Health Division**  
**Department of Health**



# Why rural health research?





## Research focus – areas of interest

- Health status of people living in rural and remote areas
- Access to services
- Workforce distribution
- Models of care and their implementation
- Environmental enablers and essential service requirements



# Research supported by the Department of Health

- Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development Strategy
- Centres of Research Excellence
- University Departments of Rural Health
- Australian Health Survey (ABS)
- Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS)



## Knowledge gaps and research questions

- Improved models of care
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Better integrated care through use of technology
- Workforce retention and demand for specialist skills
- Profiling the health care needs of older people in rural and remote areas



## Encouraging research policy dialogue

- Opportunities for researchers to share their policy views
- Commitment to research partnerships and research translation