

Media Release

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More support for nurses under world-first framework for rural and remote nursing

The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) congratulates the Government, the National Rural Health Commissioner and all the professional bodies that have worked together to release the National Rural and Remote Nursing Generalist Framework 2023–2027.

This Framework supports registered nurses to work to their full ability in rural and remote healthcare settings. “We see this as a step in the right direction in building a multidisciplinary model of care in rural and remote settings,” said Alliance Chief Executive Susanne Tegen.

“We would like to congratulate and we appreciate the work of Minister Emma McBride and Assistant Minister Ged Kearney in working with grassroots nurses, medical and allied health professionals – including dentists, paramedics and pharmacists – to bring sustainable solutions to the healthcare inequities seen in rural Australia,” said Ms Tegen.

The Alliance advocates for the Primary care Rural Integrated Multidisciplinary Health Services (PRIM-HS) model, which is an evidence-based and community-led policy and funding solution to support primary care where markets are failing or communities are without medical and healthcare services. It aims to overcome the professional, financial and social barriers to working rurally.

The Framework aligns with the Alliance’s advocacy efforts to bring this multidisciplinary model of care to rural communities and we seek government funding and support to promote PRIM-HS nationwide.

“Nurses are an essential part of the health team in any rural community. We know of many instances where, if not for the local nurses, primary care may simply not exist in those communities,” said Ms Tegen.

“For nurses considering a career in rural locations, the opportunities are exciting and challenging because there can be more breadth and autonomy, scope for varied work and the opportunity to build relationships in local communities.

“The new Framework will support nurses currently working in rural and remote communities, as well as those considering this opportunity,” concluded Ms Tegen.

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