

**2022**

### **About this Survey**

The aim of this survey is to find out about your Rural Clinical School (RCS) or rural rotation experience. **We are interested in your feedback and your thoughts about whether attending a RCS affected your interest in rural practice.** This information is important as it will help to improve RCS/regional programs to better suit students' needs. This survey is likely to take about 20 minutes of your time. Students at Rural Regional Medical Schools (Deakin University, Australian National University and University of Wollongong) should interpret the term "RCS Experience" as the most senior year-long rural placement completed during enrolment and answer "RCS" questions in relation to this long-term experience.

### **Student input and support for the project**

This survey was developed with review by, and input from, student representatives from Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) and National Rural Health Students' Network (NRHSN).

### **Confidentiality**

As a sub-study of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (MDANZ) Medical Schools' Outcomes Database (MSOD) this survey will be linked to the Longitudinal Tracking Project. This is a national database that will provide the basis for short and long-term monitoring and reporting on outcomes of medical education programs. As this is a study for longitudinal tracking of students to assess career path, you will be asked to identify yourself in this questionnaire using your University student ID number. Your data will be de-identified by research staff at the University of Notre Dame, Australia who do not have a direct teaching responsibility for medical students. Research data will be collated with feedback from all other students, so no individual responses can be identified. The data will be compared with that collected from the other Rural Clinical Schools around Australia. The data will be analysed and presented for publication in journals and at conferences. Your agreement for use of the data from your participation in this study is implicit if you complete this survey. No rural clinical school teaching academic will have access to identifiable data from research participants while you remain in the medical course. Following the graduation of your student cohort, identifiable data will be made available to a research staff member at your university who does not have direct teaching responsibility for medical students. This data will be used only to track your career location and choice of speciality.

### **Consent**

While we would greatly appreciate you filling out this survey, your participation is completely voluntary, and you are able to withdraw at any stage. Your academic progress will not be affected in any way by the information that you provide, or if you choose not to participate in this study. Consent will be implicit in you completing this questionnaire. Thank you for helping us gain insight into the experiences of rural medical students and thus helping improve the rural medical/health workforce.

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please contact:

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## FRAME Rural Clinical School (RCS) Survey 2022

Please mark your responses by placing an X in the appropriate boxes

### Q1. Your Home Institution Student ID

Q2. What is your gender? Male      Female      Other

Q3. Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_

Q4 Medical School (Please choose your home institution if you attend a combined RCS):

Australian National University	University of Newcastle
Bond University	University of New England
Deakin University	University of New South Wales
Flinders University (Flinders University Rural Health SA)	University of Notre Dame (Freemantle)
Flinders University (NT Rural Clinical School)	University of Notre Dame (Sydney)
Griffith University	University of Queensland
James Cook University	University of Sydney
Monash University (undergraduate)	University of Tasmania
Monash University (Graduate)	University of Western Australia
University of Adelaide	University of Western Sydney
University of Melbourne	University of Wollongong

Q5. Please indicate your placement type in medical school (please select one response only)

Commonwealth Supported (HECS) Place	State Bonded Place
International Fee-paying Place	Bonded Medical Place (BMP)
Australian Fee-paying Place	
Other, please specify: _____	

Q6. When did you first know that you had been allocated a rural clinical placement with your rural school, of at least a year's length? Please tick the most accurate answer:

When I accepted my medical school position	
Before the end of the preclinical phase of medical school	
After commencing the clinical phase of medical school	

Q7. Do you consider yourself to come from a rural background? No    Yes

Q8a. Please indicate the type of location, within Australia, you have lived in the longest:

MMM1 Metropolitan e.g. Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities
MM2 Regional centres (>50,000) e.g. Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld
MM3 Large rural towns (15-50,000) e.g. Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA
MM4 Medium rural towns (5-15,000) Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA
MM5 Small rural towns (<5,000) e.g. Denmark WA, Misson Beach Qld
MM6/7 remote or very remote Communities e.g. Broome WA, Katherine NT.

**Q8b. Have you lived outside a major city in Australia for EITHER a cumulative period of 10 years OR 5 years consecutively?**

No Yes

<b>Q9. Please indicate if any of the following are true:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
You have an immediate family member who is qualified as a medical practitioner		
You identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander		
You already have a health professional qualification		
You are first in your family (including your parents) to attend University		
You come from a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse background		

**Q10. In terms of ranking, my preference to attend a RCS was:**

My last choice Low on my list My mid-choice High on my list My first choice

**Q11. This year was:**

My first year at a RCS

My second consecutive year at the RCS

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**In the following section we are interested in feedback on your experiences at a Rural Clinical School / or your rural rotations**

**Q12. I would recommend the RCS experience to other medical students**

Strongly disagree

Somewhat disagree

Neutral

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

**Q13. Please rate your agreement with the following statements**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Not Applicable
a. I felt well supported academically by my RCS						
b. I felt well supported financially by my RCS						
c. I felt academically isolated during my rural placement						
d. My RCS informed me of health and counselling services that I could access for support if needed						
e. Overall I felt well supported by my RCS						
f. Overall, my RCS placement impacted positively on my wellbeing						
g. I felt socially isolated during my RCS placement						
h. I had the opportunity to access a rurally based clinical mentor						
i. My accommodation subsidy as supplied by my RCS met my needs						
j. My accommodation as supplied by my RCS met my needs						
k. I had adequate support however supplied for the research component of my course						

**Q14. How satisfied were you with these learning methods used during your rural training?**

	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Don't know	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied
a. Teleconferencing of tutoring/learning					
b. Online learning platforms					
c. Self-directed learning					

**Q15. In the past year, my rural clinical school has provided me with the following opportunities with a view to enhancing my well-being.**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Mindfulness course					
b. Other formal wellbeing/resilience training					
c. Structured support activities					
d. Informal/optional wellbeing activities					
e. Active role modelling of self-care					

f. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**In the following section we are interested in your plans for future medical practice**

**Q16 Please compare your preferences before and after your RCS experience as to which geographical location within Australia would you most like to practise on completing your training? Please rank 1 (most preferred) to 6 (least preferred):**

	Upon Entry	Currently
MM1 Metropolitan e.g. Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities.		
MM2 Regional centres (>50,000) e.g. Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld		
MM3 Large rural towns (15-50,000) e.g. Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA		
MM4 Medium rural towns (5-15,000) e.g. Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA		
MM5 Small rural towns (<5,000) e.g. Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld		
MM6/7 remote or very remote Communities e.g. Broome WA, Katherine NT.		

**Q17. Please compare your career preferences before and after your RCS experience, please rank 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred):**

	Upon Entry	Currently
Rural Generalism (a combination of general practice and rural hospital work)		
General Practice (rural or urban)		
Specialist with broad scope ( e.g. general surgeon, general physician, anaesthetist, ED)		
Sub-specialist/ other		

In this section we are interested in your opinion on these specific areas of interest

**Q18. Please respond to the following statements concerning rural practice**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a. Rural practice is too hard					
b. I have necessary skills to practise in a rural setting					
c. I get a sinking (anxious) feeling when I think of working in rural setting					
d. I have a strong positive feeling when I think of working in a rural setting					
e. People tell me I should work in a rural setting.					
f. I see people like me taking up rural clinical practice					

**Q19a. The Majority of my Regional Rural Remote placement was spent in an**

MM2 Regional centre (>50,000) e.g. Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld
MM3 Large rural town (15-50,000) e.g. Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA
MM4 Medium rural town (5-15,000) Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA
MM5 Small rural town (<5,000) e.g. Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld
MM6/7 remote or very remote Communities e.g. Broome WA, Katherine NT.

**Q19b I spent more than 4 weeks outside of my major placement in one or more of the following areas (multiple answers possible)**

	Yes	No
MMM1 Metropolitan e.g. Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld		
MM2 Regional centres (>50,000) e.g. Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld		
MM3 Large rural towns (15-50,000) e.g. Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA		
MM4 Medium rural towns (5-15,000) Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA		
MM5 Small rural towns (<5,000) e.g. Denmark WA, Misson Beach Qld		
MM6/7 remote or very remote Communities e.g. Broome WA, Katherine NT.		
I did not move during my RCS Placement		

**Q20. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a. During my placement I received formal tuition regarding career options for rural medical practice					
b. During my placement I received informal information regarding career options for rural medical practice					
c. During my placement I had the opportunity to work with junior doctors undertaking training for rural practice					
d. I wish I had received more information about rural career training opportunities this year					

**Q21.a I was a member of my University's student rural health club during the preclinical years of my course:**

No Yes

**Q21.b If you were a member, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a. My rural health club activities helped me to have positive and realistic expectations of a rural placement					
b. My rural health club activities increased my intentions of practicing in a rural area compared to my intention when entering medical school					

**Q22. Within the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, and your learning around Indigenous issues:**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I feel my RCS educated me adequately about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and importance of culture in indigenous healthcare.					
I feel the RCS has made me want to engage further with Aboriginal culture and health.					
My RCS experience has given me insight into inequities in social determinants that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live with, so I can better understand the importance of closing the gap?					
I feel more comfortable than when I first started at the RCS in communicating with, and taking a history from, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose first spoken language is not English?					

**Q23. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a. Overall, my rural clinical school experience has prepared me sufficiently to undertake the roles and responsibilities of a junior doctor					

**In this section we are interested in your experiences around COVID-19**

**Q24. Did you participate (e.g.; medical assistant) in actively screening/testing/treating COVID-19 patients? (Please choose 1)**

Yes – administrative role (non-clinical)

Yes – clinical role

No – (i.e.; no direct experience related to COVID-19)


**Q25. Have you always felt safe in your clinical training during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

No    Yes

**Q26. Relating to COVID-19's impact to your training in the last 12 months, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements**

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
a. I am concerned about having missed specific clinical learning					
b. I had exposure to an increased breadth of cases (wider caseload)					
c. I had more exposure to different models of care (e.g.; telehealth, pop up clinics)					
d. I had more exposure to community placements (e.g.; out of hospital)					
e. My placements / learning opportunities were affected by travel restrictions					
f. My hospital placements were not disrupted by COVID-19					

**Q27. To what extent do you agree that COVID-19 adversely affected your performance in assessments? (Please select 1)**

Strongly disagree   Disagree   Don't know   Agree   Strongly agree

Can you provide more details? (Open text response)

**Q28. Do you feel you are less well prepared for internship because of any training restrictions due to COVID-19? (Please select 1)**

Yes   No   don't know