

FRAME Rural Clinical School (RCS) Survey 2020

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

Q1. Your Student University ID

Q2. What is your gender? Male Female Other

Q3. Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) __ __ / __ __ / __ __

Q4. Medical School: (Please select one response only)

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

Q5a. 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	
In the first semester of medical school	
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

Q8. Please indicate the type of location, within Australia, you have lived in the longest:

Capital city	Smaller town (10,000-24,999)
Major urban centre (>100,000)	Small rural community (<10,000)
Regional city/large town (25,000-100,000)	Remote centre/area

Q9a. Have you lived outside a major city in Australia for EITHER a cumulative period of 10 years OR 5 years consecutively?

Yes

No

Q9b. Please indicate if any of the following are true:	No	Yes
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 family to attend University		
You speak a language other than English at home on a regular basis		
You and/or your parents immigrated to Australia		

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 your plans for future medical practice

Q12a Recalling *upon entry to your RCS*, in which geographical location within Australia would you most like to practise on completing your training? Please rank 1 (most preferred) to 5 (least preferred):

Capital or Major City	
Inner regional city or large town in Australia (25,000 - 100,000)	
Smaller town in Australia - outer regional (10,000 - 24,999)	
Small rural or remote community in Australia (<10,000)	
Very remote centre/area	

Q12b Now *upon exit from your RCS*, in which geographical location within Australia would you most like to practise on completing your training? Please rank 1 (most preferred) to 5 (least preferred):

Capital or Major City	
Inner regional city or large town in Australia (25,000 - 100,000)	
Smaller town in Australia - outer regional (10,000 - 24,999)	
Small rural or remote community in Australia (<10,000)	
Very remote centre/area	

Q13. Recalling your career preferences *upon entry to your RCS*, please rank 1 (most preferred) to 4 (least preferred):

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	

Q14. Rank your *current career preference* now upon exit from your RCS (using the same method as in Question 13 above):

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	

Q15. My RCS experience has increased my interest in pursuing a career in:

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Rural Generalism					
General practice					
A medical career in regional or rural Australia (RA2-3)					
A medical career in remote and very remote Australia (RA4-5)					

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

Q16. I would recommend the RCS experience to other medical students

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neutral Somewhat agree Strongly agree

Q17. Please rate your agreement with the following statements

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
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 have a rural-based clinician as a mentor					

Q18.a Which of the following statements best described the prevailing opinion of primary care by your peers (please choose 1)

Primary care is most commonly seen as a fall-back position

Neutral or equal mix of supporters and detractors

Primary care is most commonly respected

Q18.b Which of the following statements best described the prevailing opinion of primary care by the junior doctors and hospital clinicians (please choose 1)

Primary care is most commonly seen as a fall-back position

Neutral or equal mix of supporters and detractors

Primary care is most commonly respected

Q18.c Which of the following statements best described the prevailing opinion of primary care by the academic staff (please choose 1)

Primary care is most commonly seen as a fall-back position

Neutral or equal mix of supporters and detractors

Primary care is most commonly respected

Q18.d Which of the following statements best described the prevailing opinion of primary care by the medical school deans and leaders (please choose 1)

- Primary care is most commonly seen as a fall-back position
- Neutral or equal mix of supporters and detractors
- Primary care is most commonly respected

Q19. In the past year, my medical school has provided me with the following opportunities with a view to enhancing my well-being.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
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 this section we are interested in your opinion on these specific areas of interest

Q20. Please respond to the following statements concerning rural practice

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	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					

Q21. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following questions:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	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					

Q22. 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 – (ie; no direct experience related to COVID-19)

Q23. Did you always feel safe in your clinical training during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

No

Q24. In comparison to your clinical placement experience in February 2020, to what extent did COVID-19 impact the quality of your learning in clinical placement. (please select 1)

Substantially negatively

Moderately negatively

Slightly negatively

Neither a positive nor negative effect

Slightly positively

Moderately positively

Substantially positively

Q25. Do you agree with these statements relating to COVID-19's impact to your training (this year)?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	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 new models of care (e.g.; telehealth, pop up clinics)					
d. I am worried about my progression into the next year of study, given my time off work due to COVID-19					
e. I had more exposure to community placements (e.g.; out of hospital)					
f. My placements / learning opportunities were affected by travel restrictions					

Q26. How satisfied were you with the adjusted learning methods used during the pandemic?

	Highly dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly satisfied
a. Teleconferencing of tutoring/learning					
b. Online learning platforms					
c. Self-directed learning					
d. Collaborative learning					
e. Lecture sharing with other universities					
f. Video tutorials					

Q27. Do you think COVID-19 adversely affected your performance in assessments? (please select 1)

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree or disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

Don't know

Q28. Were you satisfied with concessions made in assessments in the following areas, to accommodate any potential impact of COVID-19 on your learning?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
a. Changes to the structure of written assessments				
b. Changes to the requirements for case-based learning (case logging etc.)				
c. Changes to clinical assessment (OSCE, mCEX, observed cases etc.)				
d. Changes to competency assessments (procedural skills, systems examinations etc.)				

Q29. How well do you feel you were supported by the RCS in the following areas (over and above the normal levels) when restrictions were at their maximum during the COVID-19 pandemic?

	Very poorly supported	Poorly supported	Neither well nor poorly supported	Well supported	Very well supported	Not applicable
a. Regular communication						
b. Alternatives to clinical work						
c. Q & A opportunities with RCS staff and faculty						
d. Online learning / teaching						
e. Simulation / extra clinical skills learning opportunities						
f. Financial support						

Q30. Do you feel you are less well prepared for internship because of changes to your training due to COVID-19? (please select 1)

Yes

No

Don't know

Q31a. Were you a member of your University's student rural health club during the preclinical years of the course?

Yes

No

