



MEDIA RELEASE

March 1, 2018

RURAL EMERGENCY SKILLS TRAINING

Where: All Seasons Resort, McIvor Road, Bendigo
When: Friday March 2, 2018
Time: 9.45am for photo opportunities - 10.30am for interviews

First year GP registrars from the North-West and Central Victorian regions, training under [Murray City Country Coast GP Training, \(MCCC\)](#), met in Bendigo this week to take part in the [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine \(ACRRM\)](#) rural emergency skills training (REST).

The two-day course will equip them with the understanding and practical experience to handle the most common rural practice skills and emergency scenarios.

MCCC has a crucial role in developing the next generation of GPs. The work they do with their colleagues at [ACRRM](#) and the [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#), is vital in preparing registrars for working in the rural and remote communities of Victoria and Australia.

MCCC's chief operations officer, Linda Moon, said they have a number of key partnerships in GP special skills and rural generalist training.

"We partner with the two GP colleges, rural and regional GPs and health services, the university clinical training hubs and the State and Commonwealth Governments, to create a better, more coherent model for junior doctors entering training, now and into the future.

"We support registrars to achieve their training and career goals and working through what can sometimes be a complex pathway," said Ms Moon.

Dr Bruce Thorpe, Victorian Council Member of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, said the course was an important way to retain doctors in rural areas.

"In rural and remote areas, the GP is often the first point of contact in emergencies. REST not only provides skills in dealing with emergency care, it also instils the confidence needed for rural doctors to provide a range of life-saving medical services.

"Hosting training here in Bendigo is a great way for registrars to learn these skills in a rural setting. Better yet, there's evidence that doctors with skills and confidence provided through courses such as this find they're better able to cope with the complexity of rural medicine, and also find their careers to be more rewarding.

"In that way, this course is helping to not only train rural doctors, but retain them," Dr Thorpe said.

MCCC is committed to ensuring that they continue to develop and improve training models and relationships and are in step with the work being done by Emeritus Professor Paul Worley in his role as the National Rural Health Commissioner, ensuring that there are highly skilled and experienced GPs working in rural and remote regions.

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