



30 October 2025

Mary de Groot
Secretary
Select Committee into Reproductive, Maternal and
Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania
House of Assembly | Parliament House, Hobart, Tasmania

Australian College of Rural and
Remote Medicine Limited

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acrrm.org.au

Via email: rmphs@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms de Groot

Re: Update on the work of the House of Assembly Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania

About the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

ACRRM's vision is to achieve healthy rural, remote, and First Nations communities through excellence, social accountability, and innovation. The College is committed to advancing rural and remote medicine, including training, professional development, clinical practice standards, and support for rural General Practitioners (GPs) and Rural Generalists (RGs).

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 September 2025 enclosing the update from Ella Haddad MP, Committee Chair, of the Select Committee into Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania advising of the re-establishment of the Select Committee, and that the previous submission from the College will be considered by this committee.

The College's submission in 2024, available on the previous Select Committee's website¹, is still largely relevant, although since the submission, Recommendation 1 in the submission has seen recent developments.

Recommendation 1 requested: *Support the full implementation of the National Rural Generalist Pathway, including specialist recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine. Develop and implement strategic and operational plans to support the Pathway as a mechanism to recognise the importance of the Rural Generalist approach as an enabler to innovative workforce models and workforce capacity building across maternity and paediatric services.*

On 21 September 2025, The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme announced that all health ministers have now approved rural generalist medicine as a new field of speciality practice within the specialty of general practice.

Information on this announcement is available on the ACRRM website² as well as Minister Butler's website³.

¹ Submission 11, https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0036/85779/11.-UPDATED-ACRRM_Redacted.pdf

² Joint ACRRM Media release regarding Rural Generalists <https://www.acrrm.org.au/about-us/news-events/media-releases/article/2025/09/20/rural-generalist-medicine-officially-recognised-as-a-medical-specialty-in-australia>

³ Media Release from Minister Butler <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-mark-butler-mp/media/rural-generalists-recognised-as-medical-specialists?language=en>

The announcement of the Rural Generalist recognition still requires further engagement by the College to the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority.

As the recent announcement regarding the Rural Generalist recognition directly links to Recommendation 1, the College thought it important that the Select Committee was made aware of this important development.

The College supports and welcomes ongoing opportunities for Rural Generalists in Tasmania and notes the announcement by government in May on the Next steps for Rural Generalist Pathway.⁴

We look forward to receiving updates on the outcomes and insights from the Selection Committee, and its tabled report in due course.

Marita Cowie AM
Chief Executive Officer

⁴ Media Release, 18 May 2025, Jacqui Petrusma, Minister for Health <https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/latest-news/2025/may/next-steps-for-rural-generalist-pathway>