

Rural doctors prepare script for health policy

The doctors delivering frontline medical care to Queensland's regional and remote communities will get their chance to quiz the country's key health policy decision makers in Townsville next month.

Federal Assistant Health Minister Dr David Gillespie and State Health Minister Cameron Dick and his Opposition Shadow John-Paul Langbroek have been invited to the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland's 28th annual conference from June 8-10.

RDAQ president Dr Michael Rice said it was timely for his members to directly take part in the conversation about the priorities for rural health, especially with a Queensland state election due within the next 12 months.

The Beaudesert based GP and obstetrician said RDAQ had been supporting innovative services and training programs to improve rural health and expand the delivery of rural generalist medicine for more than 30 years.

"The effectiveness of rural generalist medicine has been acknowledged nationally and internationally," he said.

"It's fundamental that rural and remote Queenslanders have access to skilled general practitioners as a key component in their health management.

"This makes not only good sense from an individual patient's point of view but also reduces more expensive demands on public hospitals and emergency departments."

This year's conference theme is "Charting New Horizons: Innovate, Navigate and Communicate" and will see more than 300 people congregate in Townsville for the annual event.

It has been 15 years since RDAQ held its conference in the north Queensland city.

conference.rdaq.com.au

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Supporting Rural Doctors and Rural Communities