

# MEDIA RELEASE

27 June 2025

## AI ‘Great Debate’ for Rural Doctors

Is Artificial Intelligence the future of rural medicine or will it lead to its ultimate destruction? That was the big question posed on night one of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland’s annual conference (RDAQ2025).

The event, themed Growing Pains: Change, Continuity, Community, has drawn hundreds of rural practitioners from across the state to the Gold Coast, together with medical students, rural families and healthcare stakeholders for the 2.5-day event delving into everything rural medicine.

The popular RDAQ Great Debate was featured on Opening Night for the first time hearing from Team Future and Team destruction, along with a keynote address from change-maker Susanne Le Boutillier around leading rural healthcare with confidence.

The annual debate pairs medical students from each of the Queensland University Rural Health Clubs with a current doctor and pits them against each other on a topic relevant to rural healthcare.

RDAQ President Dr Danielle Allan said the debate was a light-hearted, entertaining way to broach important and sometimes divisive subjects.

“Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to fundamentally transform our lives, including the practice of medicine and delivery of healthcare,” she said.

“Many rural doctors are finding ourselves at a moral crossroads around the shift to using AI tools and the balance between finding efficiencies in rural service delivery, and whether it compromises our empathetic and personalised care that characterises the relationship between patient and practitioner” she said.

“Hearing the perspectives of the next generation of doctors is extremely valuable and while Team Future delivered the winning argument last night, I think the complex subject of AI will still be very much up for debate across the remaining two days of conference and long into the future.”

There are four student Rural Health Clubs who support medical students with experiences in rural, remote, and indigenous health including BUSHFIRE (Bond), HOPE4HEALTH (Griffith), RHINO (JCU) and TROHPIQ (UQ, QUT).

Students are better enabled to attend the RDAQ conference through the Subsidise-a-Student Program where current doctor support the students to attend at a highly discounted cost.

For more information visit [conference.rdaq.com.au](https://conference.rdaq.com.au) or download the RDAQ handbook & program: [HERE](#). Download images: [HERE](#)

[conference.rdaq.com.au](https://conference.rdaq.com.au) | [conference@rdaq.com.au](mailto:conference@rdaq.com.au)

## **DAY 2 – HIGHLIGHTS**

**Location:** RACV Royal Pines Resort Gold Coast

### **Clinical spotlights**

From 8.55am

- Heart Failure
- Updates on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Malaria in returning Pacific Island Workers

### **Opening plenary**

9.55am Growing Pains – diversity and change in rural practice (facilitated by RDAQ President Dr Danielle Allan)

### **Concurrent streams**

11.05am – 12.00 | 12.05pm – 1.00pm

### **RDAQ AGM**

3.25pm Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Annual General Meeting

### **Media requirements:**

All media representatives are required to sign in at the registration desk and display their media pass at all times while on site.

### **Media contact:**

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