

MEDIA RELEASE

26 June 2025

Hundreds of rural doctors and their families from across Queensland, along with medical students, policy makers and stakeholders have converged on the Gold Coast for the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) conference.

The annual event has been running for more than three decades and this year the theme is 'Growing Pains' - a nod to the ever-evolving scope of barriers to equitable access to healthcare for rural and remote Queenslanders.

RDAQ President Dr Danielle Allan said it was also a time to celebrate what makes being a rural doctor and particularly a rural generalist such a rewarding career path.

"We anticipate some robust discussions between rural practitioners, politicians and policy makers across the 2.5 days of RDAQ2025," Dr Allan said.

"Our conference is always a fantastic opportunity for us to sit down, get really honest and look at what we can all collectively and collaboratively do to improve the health of our rural and remote communities," she said.

"Supporting rural workforce, restoring maternity services, reinstating incentives and developing rural training pathways will be high on the agenda, but it's also a time to share our victories, and let our hair down with our rural peers, who are really more like a big family."

The 2025 conference planning committee, led by Convenor Dr Sarah Gleeson from Goondiwindi has focused on injecting additional clinical content into this year's program running alongside a popular family program which builds lasting connections for rural doctors' families.

"On top of providing an awesome experience on the stunning Gold Coast with its renowned scenery, beaches and our fabulous conference venue (RACV Royal Pines Resort), this year we were determined to deliver content that supports all rural doctors, with a little extra worked in for our General Practitioners (GPs)," said RDAQ2025 Convenor Dr Sarah Gleeson.

"GPs are the backbone of rural healthcare, we have doubled our clinical streams to provide more opportunity and choice around skill development, and we know that our delegates will be able to put their new learnings into practice immediately when they get back to work.

"Of course, we will definitely have time to enjoy ourselves along the way with our legendary social program."

The conference gets underway today, with RDAQ's pre-conference clinical workshops ahead of the official opening this evening. For more information visit conference.rdaq.com.au or download the RDAQ handbook & program: [HERE](#)

conference.rdaq.com.au | conference@rdaq.com.au

DAY 1 – HIGHLIGHTS

Location: RACV Royal Pines Resort Gold Coast

RDAQ Pre-conference Workshops

From 7am

- Pre-hospital Emergency Care (Provided by ACRRM)
- Supervisor Professional Development (Provided by RACGP)
- Doctors in Training Rural Clinical Skills (In partnership with QRGP)

RDAQ2025 Opening Night

5.00pm - Opening address, opening keynote and RDAQ Great Debate

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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