

# Media Release

## Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday 12 February 2018

### **RURAL PRACTICE PATHWAYS GETTING MORE DOCTORS TO THE BUSH**

Federal Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad has welcomed a historical agreement that will see a national framework designed to increase doctor numbers in regional Australia.

“This agreement could not come at a greater time, in regional Australia we are struggling, our patch needs more doctors who want to practice in our regional towns - it’s fantastic to see a long-term solution come to light,” Mr Broad said.

The agreement has been delivered by the National Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Paul Worley whose priority is to deliver a Rural Generalist Pathway for skilled and equipped doctors to walk straight into regional GP roles.

“The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine are working together to build this national framework, nurturing a highly skilled medical workforce to meet the needs of our rural communities,” Mr Broad said.

“Being a doctor in our patch is very different to a role in the city, from live-saving surgeries to accidents on our roads, we recognise that rural doctors require an advanced skillset, this is where the Rural Generalist Pathway will play a key role.”

“Our medical workforce shortage issues need to be addressed, and this is a great step to creating a long lasting list of rural practitioners,” Mr Broad said.

Currently, a Rural Generalist Pathway Taskforce is being formed, led by the National Rural Health Commissioner which will ensure broad input from across the rural health sector in the pathway.

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