


SUPPORT SCHEME FOR RURAL SPECIALISTS FORUM
 Friday 23rd March, 2007
 Hilton Hotel Melbourne Airport

**Strengthening the health workforce:
 Commonwealth initiatives and
 implications for rural specialists**

Rick McLean
 Principal Medical Adviser in medical education
 and workforce



COAG initiatives – July 2006

- **Workforce package (approx. \$300 million/4 yrs), including:**
 - 605 new university medical undergraduate places
 - 1,000 new university nursing undergraduate places
 - National registration arrangements for health professionals
- **Mental health package (approx. \$1.9 billion/5yrs), including:**
 - Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and GPs through MBS
 - New Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme
 - New Funding for Mental Health Nurses initiative
 - Mental Health Services in Rural & Remote Areas measure



COAG workforce initiatives

- **605 new university medical undergraduate places**
 - New places phased in from 2007 and implemented by 2011
 - 3,431 (est.) completing medical students in 2015 = 137% increase
 - Governments planning additional supervised training places
- **1000 new university nursing undergraduate places**
 - New places commence in 2007
 - Commonwealth contribution to nurses' clinical training increased
 - States & Territories requested to guarantee clinical placements

Allocation of new places

State/ Territory	Medical	Nursing	Mental Health Nursing	Clinical Psychology
NSW	110	176	110	28
VIC	220	250	160	62
QLD	150	205	60	45
WA	60	95	30	40
SA	60	10	65	10
TAS	5	250*	0	0
ACT	0	50	0	25
NT	0	0	6	0
TOTAL	605	1036	431	210


* 150 of these places will be offered in Sydney

COAG workforce initiatives (cont'd)

- **National registration arrangements for health professionals**
 - A single national registration scheme to be established by 1 July 2008
 - 9 professions: medicine, nursing & midwifery, pharmacy, dental care, physiotherapy, optometry, osteopathy, chiropractors and psychology
 - Replaces registration in every state/territory

COAG workforce initiatives (cont'd)


- **National accreditation arrangements for health professionals**
 - A single national accreditation scheme to be established by 1 July 2008
 - 9 professions: medicine, nursing & midwifery, pharmacy, dental care, physiotherapy, optometry, osteopathy, chiropractors and psychology

 Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

COAG mental health initiatives

- **Better access to psychiatrists, psychologists & GPs through the MBS (\$538m over 5yrs)**
 - New MBS items to support multidisciplinary mental health care
 - New GP mental health care items support GPs
 - 20 new allied mental health MBS items for referred patients


7

 Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

COAG mental health initiatives

- **New mental health postgraduate scholarship scheme (\$10.2m over 5 yrs)**
 - Postgraduate studies in mental health nursing & clinical psychology
 - Up to 75 full time equivalent scholarships available annually
 - \$10,000 per year for each year of full time study

8

 Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

COAG mental health initiatives (cont'd)

- **New funding for mental health nurses initiative (\$191.6m over 5 yrs)**
 - Support for private psychiatrists and GPs
 - Funding for the engagement of mental health nurses
 - 25% loading applied for services in rural and remote areas

9

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

COAG mental health initiatives (cont'd)

- **Mental health services in rural & remote areas measure (\$51.7m over 5 yrs)**
 - Services provided by social workers, psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, Aboriginal health workers & Aboriginal mental health workers

10

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Building on existing Australian Government rural workforce initiatives, including:

- Rural Clinical Schools (RCS) Program
- Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme
- John Flynn Scholarship Scheme (JFSS)
- Rural & Remote Pharmacy Scholarship
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship
- Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship (Indigenous health students)
- University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) Program
- Nurse Scholarship Program
- Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme
- Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship (RAHUS) Scheme
- Rural & Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme (non-doctor, non-nurse)

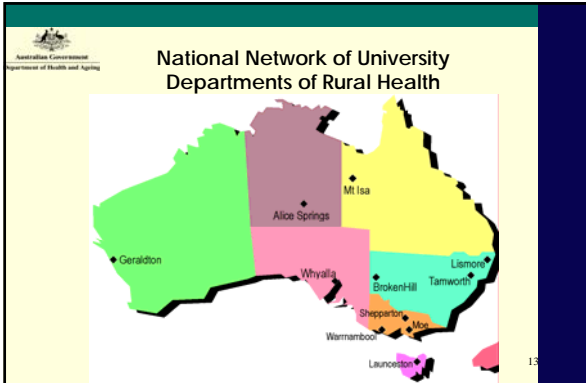
11

Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

National Network of Rural Clinical Schools


Key
 RCS University
 RCS Primary Training Sites
 Other training sites (not a complete list)

12








Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Issues

- Composition and role of overarching boards/committees
- 'Trojan horse'


16


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Benefits of national registration

- Portability
- Uniform standard
- ? Good data
- ? Ability to link with longitudinal studies
- ? Register of specialist qualifications
- ? CPD requirement
- ? Recency of practice requirement


17


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Benefits of national accreditation

- To medicine, probably nil, but it will help other professions!


18


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Nationally consistent assessment of IMGs

- Implementation committee to oversee by 1st July 2007
- Subcommittees
 - Competent authorities model
 - Hospital doctors and GPs
 - Specialist issues


19


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Competent Authorities

- Advanced standing towards AMC certificate
- Still require workplace assessment


20


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Hospital doctors and GPs

- Assessed against levels of end of PGY 1 and 2 respectively


21


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Specialist issues

- Substantially comparable qualifications
- AoN vs DWS vs fellowship


22


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Other matters

- Off-shore assessment (AMC pathway)
- Orientation and cultural awareness courses
- Supervision - training and requirements
- Assessment - in the workplace esp. mini-cex


23


Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

The future of SSRS


- A proposal for Round 7 has been received and is being considered!

24

 **SSRS Projects**


Round	No. Projects
1 & 2: Sep 2002-Jun 03	22
3: 2003-2004	21
4: 2004-2005	6
5: 2005-2006	23
6: May 2006-Apr 07	13

25

 **SSRS Funding**


Round	Funding
1 and 2	Allocated \$4 million, \$2 326 170 spent.
3	Allocated \$3.8 million, \$2 054 000 spent.
4	Allocated \$1.7 million, \$568 298 spent.
5	Allocated \$1.903 million, \$1 833 300 spent.
6	\$1 852 365 allocated. \$1 266 460 spent so far.

26

 **The main issue**

- Sustainability


27


Australian Government
Department of Health and Aging

Realigning rural programs around priority areas

- Education and CPD including rural training and access
- Workforce including locums and family support
- Practice infrastructure and quality practice including business and IT, and rosters

28


Australian Government
Department of Health and Aging

QUESTIONS?

29
