

NSW Rural and Remote Health Priority Taskforce

**RURAL PEOPLE INFLUENCING
THE DIRECTION FOR RURAL
AND REMOTE HEALTH**

Co Chairs: Dr Peter Davis and Mrs Liz Rummery, AM

NSW Rural and Remote Health Conference
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Plenary Session: Directions for Rural and Remote Health



RURAL HEALTH – THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Rural Health Report and Rural Health Plan released 2002.

Key themes:

- Services Closer to Home
- Certainty for Rural Health Services
- Strategies to Improve Recruitment and Retention

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RURAL HEALTH –THE PAST FIVE YEARS

SERVICES CLOSER TO HOME

Cardiology, Cancer, Renal, Mental Health, Maternity

CERTAINTY FOR RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

- New service models and roles in small communities
- Rural Referral Hospitals
- Networking of services

WORKFORCE

Range of workforce initiatives **but** continuing difficulties in recruitment and retention

RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH – THE FUTURE

We cannot continue to provide services in the same way we have in the past ...

It is time for change! The most effective ways to invest in service delivery must be achieved.

Rural people (residents and clinicians) have to develop, and advocate, new service models and new ways of working.

THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH – THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Wellness
- Targeted Services for Specific Population Groups
- Primary Care
- Access to Specialist Care
 - Networking of services
 - Transport and Accommodation

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THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH – THE WAY WE WORK

Partnerships and Teamwork

... between individuals

... between public and private

... between agencies

Workforce

➤ Workforce roles

➤ Training in rural areas

Information Technology

➤ Electronic medical records

➤ Telehealth

Research

THE FUTURE OF RURAL HEALTH – SETTING OUR OWN DIRECTION

Working With the Community

Rural clinicians must be the advocates for a new direction for the health system

Having a Say at the State Level

Working with, but not subsumed by, metropolitan clinicians and service planners

Service models developed in cooperation with, and consider the needs of, rural and remote NSW ... not models adapted for rural and remote NSW.