



Rural and Remote Institute of Palliative Medicine

December 2023 Recap

Advancing Palliative Medicine in Rural Australia

Despite being a short month, given the holidays, December achieved much in the pursuit of a comprehensive roadmap for Palliative Medicine in rural Australia. Both a workshop and an engaging webinar were delivered and proved to be meaningful waymarkers for the fostering of a robust and sustainable RRIPM framework.

As we step into the new year, the momentum gained during these two engagements sets a promising trajectory for an Institute that will advance Palliative Medicine and access to dignified end of life care in our diverse and geographically far-flung communities.

Workshop Recap: Building Foundations

Kicking off the month on December 6th, a small group of dedicated Palliative Medicine specialists gathered at the RACP offices in Sydney for an intensive workshop hosted by the RRIPM Project Team. The workshop yielded significant progress as the draft model for a Rural and Remote Institute was refined for broader consultation.

Key principles emerged from the discussions, emphasising the priority of rurality and the necessity for tailored rural training. The consensus underscored the importance of a national, cross-jurisdictional approach, and emphasised the need for capacity building to ensure the sustainability of rural services and individual clinicians.

Delving into the proposed operational aspects, discussions spanned governance, training pathways, workforce development, recruiting, education, research, mentoring, peer support and administration. Contemplation also revolved around potential geographical locations for RRIPM's inception.

Webinar Insight: Beyond the 'Burbs

On December 8th, RRIPM hosted an enlightening webinar titled ***Beyond the 'Burbs: Future-proofing Palliative Medicine for Rural Australia***.

The webinar featured a panel comprising esteemed practitioners Dr. Christine Sanderson (Alice Springs), Dr. Sally Banfield (Bunbury), Dr. Louis Christie (Orange), and Dr. Dan Curley (Coffs Harbour). Their insights

revealed some of the hurdles faced by both specialists and trainees and stressed the critical need for a cohesive national plan crafted by rural doctors for rural doctors. The take home message was crystal clear: innovation is key to fostering and supporting a robust Palliative Medicine workforce across every corner of our vast and beautiful country.

For those who missed this impactful session, access the recorded webinar [here](#) and dive into the conversation.



This screenshot features a few of the members of the RRIPM Steering Group having their last online gathering for 2023 on Wednesday 13th December. They send festive cheer to everyone.

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to contribute to the RRIPM journey in the coming months. Visit the website at [RRPIM Updates \(anzspm.org.au\)](#) or contact the RRIPM Project Team by emailing jo.risk@anzspm.org.au