



NATIONAL RURAL  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE INC.

## Media Release

1 September 2010

### **Rural GP leads action for healthier bush communities**

Tamworth GP Jenny May has been re-elected unopposed to serve as Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance for a third consecutive term. Dr May is currently based in Alice Springs.

“The hung Parliament has placed rural and remote issues well and truly on the political table,” said Dr May at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held in Canberra.

“Having met with the three independent MPs, Tony Windsor, Bob Katter and Rob Oakeshott, the Alliance looks forward to continuing to help all sides of politics to address the health issues currently facing one-third of the nation’s population,” she said.

Other office holders elected include Dalby-based Dr Kathryn Kirkpatrick as Deputy Chair,; Pauline Wardle from Alice Springs, as Treasurer; and Gordon Stacey from the WA Country Health Service as Secretary.

Also elected to the Board are Dubbo-based remote area nurse Sophie Heathcote; occupational therapist Nicole O’Reilly from Darwin; Alice Springs dentist Bruce Simmons; Echuca chiropractor Matt McLindon; Heather Wieland from Gladstone; and Robert Williams from the Australian Council of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, based in Sydney.

“In what is shaping up as an extremely important year for rural health, I am genuinely delighted to have the support of such a vigorous and dedicated team,” Dr May said.

Council also voted to admit two new member groups: The Rural and Remote Special Interest Group of the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals, and the Rural Optometry Group of the Optometrists Association of Australia. Their inclusion takes Alliance membership to 31 national bodies.

Jenny May welcomed the Alliance’s two newest members and expressed confidence that their involvement would further strengthen the Alliance in its work to secure equal health for people in country areas. For fuller particulars visit the website at [www.ruralhealth.org.au](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au)

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