



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

Media Release

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Rural GP heads strong team on health reform in the bush

Tamworth GP Dr Jenny May has been re-elected unopposed to serve a second term as Chair of the 29-member National Rural Health Alliance.

Other office holders elected at the 18th Annual General meeting of the NRHA held in Canberra on the weekend include Dubbo-based remote area nurse Sophie Heathcote who retains the position as Deputy Chair, Pauline Wardle from Frontier Services in Alice Springs as Treasurer, and Gordon Stacey from the WA Country Health Service as incoming Secretary.

Other Directors for the next year are pharmacist Terry Battalis, from Larrakeyah in the Northern Territory; Liz Dodd, GP from Griffith in NSW; Nicole O'Reilly, an occupational therapist from Darwin; Lyn Pearson, Executive Director of the Council of Ambulance Authorities; Alice Springs dentist Bruce Simmons; and Queensland-based Heather Wieland, National President of the Country Women's Association of Australia.

"I am delighted to have the support of such a strong and dedicated Board," said Dr May. "At a time when the opportunity for reform has never been greater, we look forward to leading the Alliance in making a real difference for the health and wellbeing of the people of rural and remote areas."

Also at the AGM, Council voted to admit the Rural Health Education Foundation as the Alliance's 29th member.

While in Canberra, Council members from around Australia spent a day in Parliament House, including meetings with Ministers Roxon and Snowdon and Shadow Minister Dutton. Health Minister Roxon described the Alliance as holding a unique place among health stakeholders and acknowledged the Alliance's ability to "mesh the needs of consumers and professionals".

"The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) will meet in Queensland next month. The Alliance has made a number of submissions to advance the health reform process and we are confident the rural voice will be heard when COAG decides on which parts of the health reform agenda it plans to progress," said Dr May.

Further Contacts

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