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New calculator helps doctors find rural incentive payments...without hiring Sherlock Holmes

While working in pristine locations, making a real connection with patients, and seeing something different each day are just some of the reasons why rural doctors wouldn't trade their career for quids, many young doctors are unaware of the financial incentives and supports they can receive when they 'go bush'.

A new online calculator developed by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) will make it easier for doctors (particularly those starting out in their careers) to find out what federal financial supports and incentives are available to them if they work in a rural or remote town.

The **Commonwealth Financial Support Calculator** enables doctors to calculate the federal incentives and supports they would receive as a rural doctor, by answering a series of basic questions including:

- the rurality or remoteness of location in which they are working (or intend to work)
- their level of HELP debt from their medical studies
- whether they are a trainee GP (Registrar) or a fully qualified specialist GP or Rural Generalist doctor
- what advanced skills they are providing (or will provide) to their community
- whether they are providing (or will provide) emergency care in their local hospital or health centre

RDAA President, Dr RT Lewandowski (pictured), said: "While there are some great federal incentives and supports available to doctors who work in rural or remote Australia, you sometimes need to be a Class A detective to find out what measures are available, and what measures you are eligible for.

"This is where our new calculator really assists.

"It puts all the relevant federal incentives into the one central database and enables future rural doctors, those just thinking about going rural, and those who have perhaps worked rurally for years, to enter in some basic details, hit the 'go' button, and get a really good indication of the federal financial measures they could be receiving for their particular location.

"It also really highlights to junior doctors that, when coupled with state-based payments and income from private general practice or Rural Generalist practice, a career in Rural Medicine can be as financially rewarding as it is professionally rewarding.

"Our calculator will be updated regularly to reflect any changes in federal incentives and supports."

Chair of RDAA's Doctors in Training Special Interest Group, Dr Marian Dover (pictured), said she was excited about the rollout of the calculator and how much it will assist junior doctors in particular to understand the Commonwealth supports and incentives that are available to doctors who choose to train and work in rural and remote communities.



“I am contacted frequently by junior doctors who are either considering a switch to Rural Medicine or are already working as rural doctors and unaware of the supports and incentives they may be eligible for” **she said.**

“It can be a very costly exercise for trainee doctors who are having to relocate across multiple sites, while also satisfying all the training, course, travel and assessment requirements.

“Many of us have trouble finding time to locate eligibility and application processes for the supports and incentives that are available.

“This calculator will be instrumental in not only recruiting more doctors to the bush, but helping them to navigate the path in accessing these much-needed measures.”



Applications to commence training in 2025 – via the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program – as a specialist GP or Rural Generalist doctor are currently open (closing on 15 April). Find more details by [clicking here](#).

Find the Rural Commonwealth Incentives Calculator by [clicking here](#).

A high resolution photo of Dr RT Lewandowski is [available here](#).

A high resolution photo of Dr Marian Dover is available on request.

Available for interview:

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