

10 June 2026

Proud palawa Rural Generalist to lead Tasmania's rural doctors

The Rural Doctors Association of Tasmania (RDAT) has welcomed the appointment of rural generalist Dr Claire Griffiths as its new President, marking an exciting new chapter for the organisation and rural healthcare advocacy across the state.

A proud palawa woman from Tasmania's north-west coast, Dr Griffiths brings a wealth of experience, passion and commitment to rural medicine, having worked across hospitals and general practices throughout regional Tasmania under the Tasmanian Rural Generalist Pathway.

Outgoing President Dr Ben Dodds said he was delighted to be handing the reins to such a capable and highly respected successor.



"It has been a privilege to serve as President of RDAT, and I am incredibly excited to be handing over to someone as well qualified, passionate and dedicated as Claire," **Dr Dodds said.**

"Claire represents the future of rural medicine in Tasmania. She is an outstanding rural generalist, a strong advocate for doctors in training, and someone who understands first-hand the opportunities and challenges of providing healthcare in rural and remote communities."

"Her commitment to rural health, combined with her leadership within RDAT and her deep connection to regional Tasmania, make her exceptionally well placed to lead the organisation into its next phase."

Dr Dodds steps down after four years as President, during which he has been a strong advocate for rural doctors and rural communities across Tasmania, helping to strengthen RDAT's voice on issues including workforce, training and access to healthcare services.

Dr Griffiths paid tribute to Dr Dodds' leadership and contribution to the organisation.

"Ben has been an outstanding President and advocate for rural medicine over the past three years," **Dr Griffiths said.**

"His dedication to improving healthcare outcomes for rural Tasmanians and supporting the rural medical workforce has left a lasting legacy for RDAT and the communities we serve."

"I am grateful for his leadership, mentorship and friendship, and I look forward to building on the strong foundations he has helped create."

Dr Griffiths said she was honoured to take on the role and continue advocating for rural doctors and communities across Tasmania.

"I am incredibly proud to serve as President of RDAT and to represent the doctors who provide care to rural and regional Tasmanians every day," she said.

"Rural medicine offers an incredibly rewarding career, and I am passionate about ensuring Tasmania remains a place where rural doctors can train, work and build long-term careers while delivering high-quality care to their communities.

"As President my priorities will include advancing the integration of Rural Generalist roles within Tasmania's public health system, advocating for investment in the infrastructure in our district hospitals and rural sites, and strengthening collaboration between government, health services, primary care and the rural health workforce to address Tasmania's needs.

"I am also committed to fostering strong relationships across the healthcare sector, including with our specialist colleagues, recognising that effective partnerships are essential to ensuring rural Tasmanians can access the care they need, close to home."

"Tasmania has a strong rural health community, and I look forward to working with our members, partners and stakeholders to ensure rural Tasmanians continue to have access to high-quality healthcare close to home."

About Dr Claire Griffiths

Dr Griffiths graduated from the University of Tasmania in 2021, receiving the prestigious G.E. Clemons Prize, and has since dedicated her career to rural medicine. She has worked across the North West Regional Hospital, Mersey Community Hospital, West Coast District Hospital, and general practices in Queenstown, Devonport and Deloraine.

Currently working as a rural generalist in Deloraine and in Emergency Medicine in Tasmania's north-west, Dr Griffiths formally commenced her Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Rural Generalist training in 2024, including a year focused on advanced skills training in emergency medicine.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr Griffiths is a passionate advocate for doctors in training through her involvement with RDAT, mentoring medical students and junior doctors and working closely with organisations involved in rural generalist training.

RDAT is the peak body representing rural doctors across Tasmania and works to ensure rural and regional communities have access to high-quality medical care through a sustainable, well-supported rural medical workforce.

Download image:

[Dr Claire Griffiths](#)

Available for interview:

Dr Claire Griffiths, RDAT President
Dr Ben Dodds, outgoing RDAT President

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