**Presentation title: How do we educationally support our Rural Generalists?**

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**Abstract** (max. 300 words):

Rural Generalist Medicine is the future of rural health care in Australia and is needed to ensure world class delivery of services and gain the best health outcomes.

In 2017 a National Rural Health Commissioner will be appointed by the Australian Commonwealth Government and will be tasked with developing a National Rural Generalist Pathway that will improve access to training for doctors in regional, rural and remote Australia.

Rural Generalist Medicine is a unique set of abilities and skills in a broad scope of practice that meets the community’s needs. Current evidence suggests that targeted training for rural practice at postgraduate level, along with rural origin and positive exposure to rural health in the undergraduate years are the factors most strongly associated with entering rural practice.

So what is needed to assist a Rural Generalist in developing the desired scope of practice to service the rural and the remote communities of Australia?

Western Sydney University’s Bathurst Rural Clinical School is currently developing a Masters of Medicine (Rural Generalism) to provide an educational framework and support which will enhance rural generalist skills.

Our discussion considers the challenges in determining what is educationally required and how to gain the “perfect” fit of skills. How does educational support fit into the already busy role Rural Generalists have and what is the best way to deliver these types of skills.