

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**08 June 2007**

## RWAV announces new CEO

Ms Claire Austin RMN. BA. Social Policy. M.Inst.D has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria Limited (RWAV).

Dr Philip Webster, Chair of RWAV says "Claire has long-standing experience in the New Zealand health and social services sector. She is currently Executive Director of the Health Funds Association of New Zealand – the health insurers' industry body. A former Chief Executive of the Families Commission, The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and Age Concern New Zealand, she has broad experience in management, advocacy, policy and standards development, communications and liaison.

Claire has also held a number of strategic, governance and health policy advisory roles. These include being a member of the NZ Minister of Health's Advisory Council from 2000-2004, The NZ Health Strategy Advisory Group and being an International Federation on Ageing Advisor. She has also provided advice to the Australian Federal Department of Health and Ageing, the New Zealand Health Workforce Advisory Committee, Local Government New Zealand, 1999 United Nations Plan of Action on Ageing and a range of health and social service organizations.

She is registered psychiatric nurse, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Policy and is a recent alumna of the Cambridge University International Health Leadership Programme, having studied international health systems and finance, leadership, workforce, strategy, globalization, standards and regulation, public/private health systems, human resource and change management. Claire has a particular interest in the implementation of change in health systems and the public/private interface of health care. She is also a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors."

Claire will commence her role after relocating from New Zealand on the 10 September 2007.

### About RWAV

RWAV was established in 1998 to overcome the shortage of rural doctors and improve access to medical services for rural Victorians. RWAV's recruitment programs and ongoing support services have been fundamental to increasing rural GP numbers in Victoria

Today, RWAV is addressing workforce shortages in rural and regional towns. Some of its key priorities include the provision of support services for rural doctors and their families, professional development programs, locum support, marketing of rural general practice, recruitment of rural doctors including specialist outreach Services, workforce planning and research to inform government policy.

**Further information on RWAV is available on the website  
at [www.rwav.com.au](http://www.rwav.com.au)**

### Media enquiries

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Supporting Victoria's Rural Doctors



Ms Claire Austin