

# RURAL HEALTH OUTREACH FUND (RHOF)

## APRIL 2021

RHOF program supports outreach health activities to address health issues identified in regional, rural and remote locations, including through improved coordination and combination of health activities. Within this broad spectrum, it is acknowledged that there is a need for specific emphasis on the following health priorities:

- maternity and paediatric health;
- eye health;
- mental health; and
- support for chronic disease management, including chronic pain management.

### NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICAL AREA 3 (SA3) NEEDS LOCATION 2021-22.

A needs analysis was conducted between February - April 2021. This needs assessment used data from:

**i.** The RWAV 2020 GP survey where GPs indicated a need for Audiologists, Chiropractors, Diabetes Educators, Dietitians, Exercise Physiologists, Mental Health Workers, Occupational Therapists,

Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Orthoptists, Osteopaths, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Speech Therapists, and Ear, Nose and Throat specialists (ENTs) in their local communities.

**ii.** The number of health practitioners by location was also used as we had access to confidential aggregated counts of health practitioners by sa2 location (e.g., 10-20 psychologists in Bendigo – this is just an example, this data is confidential therefore the example is fictional) from the Department of Health (National Health Workforce Dataset – Medical, 2019). Specialist numbers by location for professions such as Dermatologists, Obstetrics/Gynaecologists, Paediatricians, and Palliative Medicine Specialists.

**iii.** Additionally, exactly what health services are available in specific towns was also used (via the National Health Service Directory) for all professions in the RHOF needs assessment.

### Determining the priority areas

A need was identified for that SA3 for RHOF services where

- 1.** practitioner (ii) and service counts (iii) were low, and/or
- 2.** a need was indicated via the 2020 GP survey results (i),
- 3.** a need was identified for an SA3 area. Priority areas for RHOF program

Based on the needs assessment, RHOF needs for primary care and specialists services are listed as below:

• **Table 1** presents the needs for Audiologists, Chiropractors, Diabetes Educators, Dietitians, Exercise Physiologists, Mental Health Workers, Occupational Therapists, Orthoptists, Optometrists, Osteopaths, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Psychologists, and Speech Therapists.

• **Table 2** presents the needs for Dermatologists, ENTs, Obstetricians/Gynaecologists, Ophthalmologists, Paediatrics, Palliative medicine specialists, and Psychiatrists.

**Table 1:** RHOF needs of Allied Health Practitioners

Statistical Area 3	Audiologist	Chiropractor	Diabetes Educator	Dietitian	Exercise Physiologist	Mental Health Worker	Occupational Therapist	Orthoptist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Speech Therapist
Barwon - West										Yellow				
Baw Baw						Yellow			Blue				Blue	
Campaspe	Blue		Blue	Yellow	Blue		Blue	Yellow	Blue			Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Colac - Corangamite	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow		Yellow	Blue		Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan			Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue					Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Gippsland - East	Blue		Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue		Blue	Yellow		Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Gippsland - South West	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue		Blue	Yellow	Blue		Blue	Yellow
Glenelg - Southern Grampians			Blue			Yellow		Yellow	Blue	Yellow			Blue	Yellow
Grampians	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow		Yellow	Blue			Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton		Yellow			Blue	Yellow	Blue					Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Loddon - Elmore	Blue	Yellow			Blue		Blue						Blue	
Macedon Ranges	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow		Yellow			Blue				Blue	

Statistical Area 3	Audiologist	Chiropractor	Diabetes Educator	Dietitian	Exercise Physiologist	Mental Health Worker	Occupational Therapist	Orthoptist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Speech Therapist
Maryborough - Pyrenees														
Mildura														
Moira														
Murray River - Swan Hill														
Nillumbik - Kinglake														
Shepparton														
Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula														
Upper Goulburn Valley														
Wangaratta - Benalla														
Warrnambool														
Wellington														
Wodonga - Alpine														

**Table 2:** RHOF needs for specialists

<b>Statistical Area 3</b>	<b>Dermatologist</b>	<b>Ear Nose and Throat Specialist</b>	<b>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</b>	<b>Ophthalmologist</b>	<b>Paediatrics and Child Health</b>	<b>Palliative Medicine</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>
Barwon - West	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Baw Baw	Yellow	White	White	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Campaspe	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	White	Blue	Yellow
Colac - Corangamite	Yellow	White	White	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Gippsland - East	Yellow	Blue	White	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Gippsland - South West	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	Yellow	Blue	White	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Grampians	Yellow	Blue	White	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Loddon - Elmore	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Macedon Ranges	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow

<b>Statistical Area 3</b>	<b>Dermatologist</b>	<b>Ear Nose and Throat Specialist</b>	<b>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</b>	<b>Ophthalmologist</b>	<b>Paediatrics and Child Health</b>	<b>Palliative Medicine</b>	<b>Psychiatrist</b>
Maryborough - Pyrenees	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Mildura	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Moira	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Murray River - Swan Hill	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Nillumbik - Kinglake	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	White
Shepparton	Yellow	White	White	White	White	White	Yellow
Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	Yellow	White	Yellow	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Upper Goulburn Valley	Yellow	White	White	White	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Wangaratta - Benalla	Yellow	White	White	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Warrnambool	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Wellington	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Yellow
Wodonga - Alpine	Yellow	Blue	White	Blue	Yellow	White	Yellow

### Please note:

Statistical Area Three (SA3) Localities: SA3s are generally designed to have populations between 30,000 and 130,000 persons. They have considerable flexibility in terms of population variability, allowing for the representation of meaningful regional areas for data analysis. In the rural context, SA3s are the functional areas of regional towns and/or cities with a population of at least 20,000 or clusters of related suburbs.

### References

Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2016, July 12). Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. ABS.

Department of Health. (2020). Health Demand and Supply Utilisation Patterns Planning (HeadS UPP) Tool, Australian Government. Retrieved from <https://hwd.health.gov.au/headSUPP.html>

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria Limited. (2021). RWAV 2020 Regional Victoria GP Workforce Survey.

Department of Health and Human Services (2021), Specialty Workforce Counts, Australian Government (confidential aggregated counts for limited specialties)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016), Census Quickstats, Population Counts. Retrieved from: [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/20403?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/20403?opendocument).

Healthdirect (2021), Healthmap. Retrieved from: <https://studio.healthmap.com.au/>.