



# RWAV statement on the “Independent review of Australia’s regulatory settings related to overseas health practitioners” by Robyn Kruk AO

Dec, 2023

**Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) welcomes the final report of the Independent review of Australia’s regulatory settings related to overseas health practitioners undertaken by Robyn Kruk AO (the Kruk review)**

The [Kruk review](#) has examined the regulations that enable internationally qualified health practitioners to work in Australia and made recommendations to reduce duplication and streamline processes with due regard for safety and quality.

The recommendations are for government, regulators, medical colleges and Ministers to streamline inefficient processes that prevent overseas health professionals from readily entering employment in Australia and so ease health workforce shortages. RWAV believes implementation of these recommendations will go some way to improve Victorian rural community access to healthcare.

RWAV is pleased to see the report make recommendations that will improve the recruitment and registration experience for applicants and streamline pathways for priority medical specialists, nursing and allied health professionals to work in areas of workforce shortage. We look forward to seeing these improvements and then identify opportunities for RWAV to support overseas health professionals to work in country Victoria.

RWAV will monitor progress of the implementation of the recommendations, particularly the recommendations to develop performance indicators for recruitment of overseas health practitioners in acknowledged areas of shortage, recognition of skills gained overseas for the purpose of registration assessments and expansion of remote supervision models.

We also look forward to receiving further details on plans for collaborative models to support overseas health professional recruitment and retention in rural Australia. Supported by our years of rural health expertise and workforce data, RWAV is well-placed to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kruk review for communities with identified priority health workforce need in rural Victoria.

While RWAV is supportive of much needed reform to attract internationally qualified health practitioners to rural Victoria, during implementation of new processes RWAV, like others, urges governments and regulators ensure that the quality of healthcare delivery and clinical safety are maintained.

*“Rural Victoria significantly relies on overseas health professionals, who are vital for patients to access healthcare. These health professionals continue to make a positive contribution to healthcare, and more needs to be done to enable them to work safely in Victoria in a timely fashion” said RWAV CEO Lauren Cordwell.*

*“RWAV has been supporting overseas health professionals to work in rural Victoria for two decades. We have observed how long delays, documentation duplication, expensive and rigid application pathways as detailed in the report, have challenged many of these skilled professionals.”*



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### **About RWAV**

RWAV improves access to quality primary care health services and other health services for rural, regional and First Nations communities across Victoria. We improve health outcomes through effective and customised health workforce solutions that are informed through partnerships, workforce and population health data, and collaboration with communities.