

21<sup>st</sup> of December 2018

To whom it may concern,

You may be aware that the Department of Human Services published information regarding changes to Section 3GA of the *Health Insurance Act 1973* under Stronger Rural Health Strategy on its website on Tuesday 11 December 2018. The information has been removed as it contained incorrect details of the changes due for implementation in 2019.

The following updated information has been provided by the Department of Health (DoH) for doctors currently on the Rural Locum Relief Program:

- A new workforce program will be commencing on 1 January 2019, this is called the More Doctors for Rural Australia Program (MDRAP).
- There is no requirement for doctors on existing programs to move to MDRAP.
- As part of the reforms to Section 3GA of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, RLRP will no longer accept new applications in 2019. The DoH have yet to provide a cut-off date. RWAV will keep you informed once a date has been published.
- Existing RLRP participants may continue on the program until the end of their placement as determined by RWAV.
- The Special Approved Placement Program (SAPP) will no longer accept new applications in 2019. The DoH have yet to provide a cut-off date. Existing SAPP participants may continue on the program until the end of their placement as determined by the DoH.
- The legislation that provides RLRP participants with access to Medicare will not be revoked until all existing doctors have finished their placements.

Yours sincerely,



**Megan Cahill**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Rural Workforce Agency Victoria**

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