

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Victorian Rural Health Conference bringing rural health professionals together**

Mental health, the future of rural medicine, culturally savvy general practice and workforce issues will be key areas of discussion at the upcoming Victorian Rural Health Conference, co-hosted by the Rural Workforce Agency of Victoria (RWAV) and Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDAV).

The conference, which will run from the 27-29 April 2018 at the RACV Goldfields Resort, Creswick, is the peak event for Victorian rural doctors and will be officially opened by The Hon Bridget McKenzie, Federal Minister for Rural Health. Also speaking at the opening will be The Hon Catherine King, Federal Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare. The keynote speaker is Dr Harry Eeman, a Rehabilitation physician, and pain specialist.

Dr Yousuf Ahmad, Chair of RWAV said “the theme of the conference is “diversity,” and we will explore diversity in general practice, doctors’ mental health, workforce issues and future of rural health to bring change to general practice in rural Victoria.”

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services supports medical students who have a keen interest in practicing rurally to attend the conference. RWAV coordinates this excellent opportunity for medical students to interact and build their networks with rural GPs as well as increase their knowledge in medicine and rural practice.

The program includes pre-conference workshops for students, registrars and practice managers, as well as in Advanced Life Support for doctors.

The Victorian Rural Health Awards will be held in conjunction with the conference. The Victorian Rural Health Awards is hosted by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and sponsored by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. RWAV organise the awards to recognise the outstanding commitment and dedication of health professionals working in rural Victoria and will be presented at the conference gala dinner on the 28 of April 2018.

For more information on the conference and to view the full program, go to [www.rdaa.com.au/vicconference2018](http://www.rdaa.com.au/vicconference2018)



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RWAV is a non-profit government-funded organisation improving the health workforce for rural, regional and Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

Further information: [www.rwav.com.au](http://www.rwav.com.au)