

# SARRAH

Services for Australian  
Rural and Remote Allied Health

**Media Release**

14 October 2021

## **14 OCTOBER – ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS DAY – ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR EFFORT**

Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH), the peak body for allied health professionals working in rural and remote Australia, is proud to acknowledge the amazing efforts and contribution our members and their allied health colleagues make in improving the lives of many millions of Australians every year.

We need to celebrate Allied Health Professionals Day and the more than 200,000 people who apply their skills every day to help other people - delivering specialised clinical skills, diagnosing, assessing, treating, managing conditions and caring, preventing illness and injury, enabling rehabilitation and providing support.

You work to keep people well, to help people so they don't need to go to hospital, and when they do go to hospital you provide the treatments they need to recover, to become strong and well again. We know you work across every age group and in every health and social service sector.

You help people to achieve life goals, with daily living, with social and community participation, to get and keep work, to enjoy leisure, learning and relationships: the things that make a good life and underpin every person's well-being.

We know you're there when people are in severe distress or crisis and need support to cope, survive and recover.

We know you're there when parents are concerned about why their little one can't seem to hear, see, speak or engage with the other children, and afterward when the therapies and assistance is helping so they can.

We know you're there helping someone recover from that terrible accident and they couldn't work and it put so much stress on the family. But they're getting back to work now, which everyone's glad about and they didn't lose the house.

We know you're there after Nana had the stroke but with your help she's learning to swallow, eat and even speak a little again and if they can keep the therapy up she'll be mobile again soon and you will help ensure she regains that strength she needs to keep the risk of falling as low as possible.

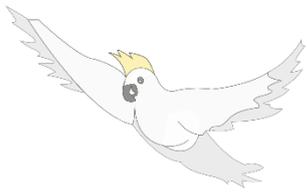
We know you're there for thousands of other things as well. That's the value that allied health adds to everyday lives.

To us, it is valuable and deserves to be celebrated.

So well done all of you allied health professionals. And from SARRAH, well done especially those of you who serve Australians living in rural and remote Australia. There simply aren't enough of you. We know you are committed and cope with situations where there would

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be twice as many of you if you were looking after the same population but in a metropolitan setting.

Another thing we know is that not enough is being done to ensure there is a rural allied health workforce to meet future demand. We need some serious commitment from politicians and government to help you do your work, so the millions of Australians who continue to miss out on services they need get a fair go.

We need a multi-pronged approach that addresses the entire workforce pipeline, from undergraduate student selection through to support for allied health professionals to undertake on-the-job teaching and training, and a myriad of post-graduate supports to ensure that allied health professionals see a rural career as a serious and sustainable option. We wish we knew why these supports don't already exist given the long-standing workforce shortages that have meant reduced access to care for the 7 million+ people living in rural and remote Australia.

So we will continue to promote the important work you do, and to raise awareness of the urgent need to invest in the health and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians by nurturing and growing this critical workforce.

Thank you to each and every rural allied health professional. You deserve this.

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SARRAH is the peak body representing rural and remote allied health professionals (AHPs) working in public, private and/or community settings SARRAH advocates on behalf of rural and remote Australian communities. SARRAH maintains that every Australian should have access to health services wherever they live, and the allied health services are fundamental to the well-being of all Australians.

<https://www.sarrah.org.au/>

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