



MEDIA RELEASE
27 July 2006

**AMC To Support ACCRM Through Accreditation
Application**

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) will work with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) through the process of applying for accreditation.

The full Council of the AMC met in Canberra today (27 July 2006) and confirmed it would establish an advisory committee to work with ACRRM to help it develop its accreditation application. This group will be separate from the AMC team that will assess the final accreditation application.

ACCRM had sought accreditation as a standards body and medical education and training provider for the specialty of general practice by the Specialist Education Accreditation Committee (SEAC) of the AMC. ACRRM had previously sought recognition for rural and remote medicine as a separate specialty. At the recommendation of the Minister for Health, it is now seeking accreditation of its programs within the specialty of general practice.

The AMC today said the accreditation process was exacting to ensure that training programs adequately prepared participants to provide safe medical care to Australians.

The Council today found that the ACRRM submission for initial accreditation does not at this stage demonstrate that the proposed education and training leading to the fellowship of ACRRM meets the AMC's accreditation standards. ACRRM has formally accepted the AMC's offer to establish an advisory committee to help bring the submission to a level that meets AMC standards. No clear timelines have been agreed, but the application may take a further three to six months.

The AMC has previously worked with other training organisations to support their accreditation applications, which require extensive documentation, rigour and forward planning.

The Australian Medical Council is an independent national standards body for medical education and training. It aims to promote and protect public health and safety by ensuring a safe and competent workforce distributed across Australia to meet community needs.

Ends.

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