



## WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION NETWORK (ARHEN)?

**Vision:** *Achievement of better rural and remote health through learning.*  
**Guiding purpose:** *To lead and initiate the rural and remote health agenda in education and research.*

### CONNECTING 12 UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS OF RURAL HEALTH

Established in 2001, ARHEN is the network connecting 12 University Departments of Rural Health (UDRHs) in rural and remote areas in every state and the NT.

UDRHs are the only rurally based academic units that work across all health disciplines, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and with the existing health workforce.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH WORKFORCE

UDRHs are committed to using national strategies to address the health workforce needs of rural and remote areas. They support clinical placements including in non-traditional settings to address workforce shortages across health disciplines, offering multidisciplinary education and training, research, professional support and service development.

UDRHs are funded as part of the Australian Government Department of Health's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Programme.

### ARHEN KEY MESSAGES

1. **Teaching.** *Our clinical placements and teaching activities provide rich, authentic learning experiences which prepare students for professional practice in distinctive remote and rural settings.*
2. **Research.** *Our UDRHs undertake research focused on rural and remote problems and develop and test original solutions, including research which may have national and international significance. This research informs the development of accessible and sustainable health services for Australia.*
3. **Service.** *Our UDRHs work with their communities to build capacity to respond effectively to the contemporary challenges in rural and remote health.*