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# Innovative Ideas for Rural and Remote Health Workforce



Mount Isa Centre for Rural and  
Remote Health



# Workforce Crisis



"Here make yourself useful and hold this."



## In search of answers

1. Literature Review of other models of service delivery throughout the world including:
  - Physician Assistants (US)
  - Rural and Isolated Practice Endorsed Nursing Program (RIPEN)
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Paramedic expanded practice programs:
    - Community Paramedic (Canada)
    - Emergency Care Practitioner (UK)



## Possible Solution

2. Survey of current and previous practice of rural and remote paramedics
  - Were already providing additional support in rural and remote areas
  - Paramedics in rural and remote areas have capacity to provide services
  - Paramedics are enthusiastic to extend their practice for the benefit of their communities





## Course Objective

To increase the number of health professionals providing primary health care in rural and remote areas

- Basic healthcare monitoring
- Chronic disease management
- Minor medical intervention
- Public Health approach to disease and injury prevention



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# Graduate Certificate in rural and remote Paramedic practice



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# **Graduate Certificate in Rural and Remote Paramedic Practice**

Includes four subject areas:

- Subject 1: Legislative authority to practice
- Subject 2: Advanced clinical practice (modified RIPEN – QHealth program)
- Subject 3: Health and Community Integration (JCU)
- Subject 4: Rural and Remote Paramedic Primary Health Care (JCU)





# Health and Community Integration

- Community survey
- Health Promotion
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Infectious Diseases





# Rural and Remote Paramedic Primary Health Care

- Chronic disease
- Diabetes
- Mental Health





## Current situation



Students commenced the second part of the course in July.

Students are located in rural and remote communities across Queensland.



# Faces of the future



Cohort 3      July 2007



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JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY



Queensland  
Government  
Queensland Health



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## Challenges

- Clinical governance and support
- Development of relationships with other healthcare providers
- Educating other healthcare providers and the public about the function of the new role.
- Evaluating the efficacy of expanded practice programs





