



**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.**

ABN 91 028 693 268

4 June 2021

Ms Susanne Tegen  
Development Consultant  
Australian Remote Medicine Academy  
Email: susanne.tegen@adelaide.edu.au

Dear Ms Tegen

**RE: the proposal to establish an 'Australian Remote Medicine Academy'**

On behalf of the Australian Medical Association in South Australia (AMA(SA)), I write to provide in-principle support of the proposal to establish an 'Australian Remote Medicine Academy' designed to encourage and support medical students to train and work in regional and remote areas of South Australia.

AMA(SA) members who have worked in regional areas understand that the experience of living and working rurally increases the likelihood that a junior doctor will choose a career in rural medicine. The Federal AMA position holds that one-third of medical school enrolments should be students with rural backgrounds. We also understand that too few people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait heritage train as doctors and/or are able to gain experience in regional areas.

As such, AMA(SA) supports the concept of an 'academy' that will be funded to provide specific training for a cohort of medical students who want to train and work in regional and remote areas. Information provided about the proposed Australian Remote Medicine Academy (ARMA) suggests that it will focus on policies and programs to support medical students and graduates to work in rural and remote areas during their university studies and training. AMA(SA) supports this intention.

However, our support is conditional on the proposal creating an academy that – in line with Federal AMA policy – will not establish new medical school Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs), now or in the future, so that its CSPs will be redistributed from other areas. In addition, our support comes with the clear understanding that this Academy will not constitute a new medical school, but will be established as a program of the Adelaide Rural Clinical School, and therefore remains a part of the Adelaide Medical School.

Our support also requires that the Academy be established and managed on a continuing basis with sufficient financial resources and clinical governance to ensure it has the expertise, staff and physical infrastructure required to support its students at all times.

We also agree that Port Augusta – in a central location in regional South Australia and with a high proportion of Aboriginal residents in nearby communities – be explored as one of the initial bases of the program.

I welcome any opportunity for AMA(SA) to be involved in further discussions of this proposal. In the meantime, you may wish to consider the [AMA Position Statement on Rural training pathways for specialists 2020](#) and [AMA Position Statement on Medical](#)

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[Workforce and Training 2019](#) for a more detailed explanation of AMA policy. Please contact me at any time via Executive Assistant Mrs Claudia Baccanello on 8361 0109 or at [claudia@amasa.org.au](mailto:claudia@amasa.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Atchison', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr Michelle Atchison**

President  
AMA(SA)