

CONFRONTING THE RURAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

ASGC-RA 2 (Inner Regional)

Overseas Trained Doctors

- The ten year restrictions will be nine years in ASGC-RA 2 localities.

HECS Reimbursement Scheme

- Under the HECS Reimbursement Scheme, the HECS debts will be repaid over five years in ASGC-RA 2 localities.

General Practice Rural Incentives Program

- The new General Practice Rural Incentives Program will provide the following incentives in ASGC-RA 2 localities:
 - Relocation grants: Doctors that relocate from the city to ASGC-RA 2 localities may be eligible for a relocation grant of \$15,000.
 - Retention grants: Doctors that practice in ASGC-RA 2 localities may be eligible for retention grants as indicated in the table below:

	Period of time in location (years)				
	0.5	1	2	3-4	5+
Grant amount	\$0	\$2,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$12,000

Locums

- Non-financial support: Doctors in ASGC-RA 2 localities will be eligible to seek locum support from the new National Rural Locum Program, where assistance will be provided to match locums with doctors who need time off to rest or undertake professional development.

Bonded Medical Places (BMP) Scheme and Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships (MRBS)

- The Scaling initiative will provide a non-cash incentive for doctors from the MRBS Scheme and the BMP Scheme with a return of service obligation to work in rural and remote communities. In essence the more remote an area the shorter the return of service obligation will be. The precise details of the new arrangements and how they will be applied to the two Schemes are currently being finalised.