

# New-look rural health training program in Warrnambool

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A new-look rural health training program is expected to bring \$1 million in support for doctors, nurses and allied health staff across the region.

The Deakin University Rural Health Multi-disciplinary Training (RHMT) Program replaces the former Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health (GGT UDRH).

The Greater Green Triangle was a joint initiative between Deakin and Flinders universities. Both universities have now established separate health training programs.

Deakin University program director Professor Peter Harvey, the former Greater Green Triangle director said all Victorian staff from the former group were continuing with the new program.

Professor Harvey expects the number of student placement weeks will double under the program.

"We have access to \$1 million additional federal government funding and aim to provide up to 4000 student placement weeks in hospitals, clinics and health centres, effectively doubling the current number," he said.

"The additional funding will increase our capacity to support students and could include more academics in rural areas to provide training and supervision. Funding will also be used to subsidise accommodation for students who train in rural areas."

Professor Harvey said the program was continuing to pursue research in chronic disease and Aboriginal health where the research has the potential to lead to improved health service delivery in rural communities.

The program will continue in Warrnambool and at this stage is based at Deakin.