



Office of Head of School - Clayton
School of Rural Health
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Dear RCS Heads and RUSC Organisers,

Our names are Assoc. Prof. Janice Chesters and Mr Angelo D'Amore from Monash University School of Rural Health. We are asking for your support for a research project examining the way Australian Medical Schools meet their compulsory four week Rural Undergraduate Support and Coordination (RUSC) program rural placement requirements for DEST-funded students. We would like to compile data for all 14 Australian Rural Clinical Schools (RCS).

The information we would be collecting if you decide to support our request would be:

- The length of your MBBS course
- The period of time students are expected to spend in a rural placement in each year of the course
- Whether the RUSC 4 week rural placement requirements are also offered to non-DEST-funded students (including international students)
- A brief description of the rural sites where placements occur
- A description/copy of the rural curriculum for each year of the course
- Projections outlining when the majority of students are expected to meet their 4 week RUSC rural placement requirements

Most of this information would be reported on in **Parameter 2** of your 2006 RUSC report. We will provide a template for you to transfer your data into or alternatively you may like to send us a copy of your 2006 report and we will abstract the data for you.

The information gathered through this exercise will be reported back to all RCS and will form the basis of a peer reviewed paper and conference presentation (acknowledgements will be given to all participating RCS). We hope this study will be a stepping stone to more information sharing between the RCS to help improve the way we all deliver our rural placement program and meet our RUSC requirements.

Yours Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Janice Chesters

Mr Angelo D'Amore