



Rural Doctors Association
of Queensland
“Caring for the Country”

Media Release 1st June 2011

Medico-Political forum in Cairns to be a hot one

Country doctors around Queensland were looking forward to their annual Medico-Political forum, President of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, Dr Dan Halliday announced today.

Expert panel members grilling speakers at the forum on Sunday 12th June will include:

- Rural Doctors Association of Queensland: Dr Dan Halliday
- Rural Doctors Association of Australia: Dr Sheilagh Cronin
- Australian Medical Association Qld: Dr Gino Pecoraro

RDAQ's annual Medico-Political forum has a tradition of bringing country doctors face-to-face with key policy and decision makers and features high-level input from Government, Opposition and the public service especially at State level. Questions from the floor fly fast and furious and the forum has been the scene of revelations and revolutionary plans.

“Meeting the coalface rural medical workforce has been an eye-opener for Queensland's Health Ministers in recent years including Stephen Robertson and Deputy Premier Paul Lucas,” Dr Halliday said. “Our members pull no punches, they're not always ‘politically correct’ and yet we always make some useful progress on all sides.”

In 2010 for example, Deputy Premier and Health Minister Paul Lucas announced the launch of “Queensland Country Practice,” an innovative employment model for Queensland Health; and was genuinely surprised to hear that not all the State's medical graduates would be guaranteed of internships in coming years.

In Cairns on Sunday 12th June 2011, RDAQ anticipates representation from:

- Queensland Health Minister, Queensland Health - Geoff Wilson and senior executives
- Local Member and Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships - Curtis Pitt
- Shadow Minister for Health - Mark McArdle
- Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs – Warren Snowdon
- Also invited: Warren Entsch, Nicola Roxon & Bob Katter

The RDAQ Medico-Political Forum will be at the Sebel Cairns Hotel from 11:20 to 13:00 on Sunday 12th June 2011.

Representation of invitees is to be confirmed.

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