



Rural Doctors Association
of Queensland
“Caring for the Country”

Media Release

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Flooded country docs praise Govt response

Doctors in flood-affected communities were full of praise for the Government’s handling of the crisis, President of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, Dr Dan Halliday said today from Stanthorpe.

“Our members are living and working in affected communities across the State like Theodore, St George, Chinchilla, Emerald and Oakey,” Dr Halliday said. “They’re telling us that the response from local, state and federal governments has been fantastic.”

Dr Adam Coltzau in St George said, “Things have settled a little here but we’re still on alert. Some of the hospital has been evacuated and the GPs are all very busy and all the local practices remain dry.” Dr Coltzau has been very happy with the responses from state and federal governments, saying everything has been well organised. “Queensland Health in particular has been on the ball,” he said. “There’s even been a mobile hospital established and ready to go if necessary.”

At Emerald, Dr Ewen McPhee praised Emergency Management Queensland and senior clinicians in the local Hospital who coordinated the Flood Disaster Management in the area. “Dr Mark Foreman is an ex-army medico and current Director of Medical Services,” Dr McPhee said. “He pulled in several ex-army locums who took the whole event in their stride – perhaps their experience in Afghanistan helped!”

Local doctors have been helping each other out, and their hospitals too, Dr Halliday reported. “In Emerald, for example, we had local doctors in the east and west evacuation centres and one GP surgery was used as an Emergency Department when the hospital was cut off.”

RDAQ and its national counterpart the Rural Doctors Association of Australia have expressed support for their members and colleagues at this trying time.

“We are establishing a coordinated response to the immediate and long term concerns of our members in affected areas,” Dr Halliday said. “With our partners we will talk with both state and federal governments to ensure our members experiences, needs and issues are heard and considered in emergency and rebuilding strategies.”

Affected country doctors have been encouraged to contact RDAQ and/or RDAQ right away to log their needs for presentation to key Ministerial contacts early next week.

For comment or further information contact:

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