



Better Together



RURAL & REMOTE HEALTH Principles for Innovation

Rural and Remote Medical Services Ltd was born from the innovative capacity and creativity of rural and remote communities in addressing shared problems. We believe that innovations, such as Telehealth, have a critical role in the provision of health and hospital care to all Australians in the future. Innovation, informed by the common-sense of communities and evidence, will become an increasingly integral tool in advancing patient health.

We have adopted these overarching principles to help guide decisions about the use and development of new innovations in the future:

- Patient and community needs must be the starting point for all innovation planning and implementation.
- Healthcare quality and safety must be the primary driver all decisions about models of care and the application of technology and innovation.
- The General Practice-patient relationship must remain at all times at the centre of all primary healthcare services within a team-based model of care that engages the experience and expertise of multiple health and social care professionals.
- Communities, patients and clinicians must be engaged in the co-design of future health and social services to build confidence and utilisation.
- Models of care must be appropriate for patient and community needs and contribute to better health outcomes.
- Clinical protocols must be developed by experts in relevant fields.
- The patient right of informed consent to the type and mode of treatment must be inviolate to reduce the risk of 'solutions' being imposed without community and patient consent.
- Telehealth is a tool to complement the doctor-patient relationship - it must not be used to replace existing local GPs and services where hands-on medical and health care is required and/or expected.