



NSW RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK

HEALTH SERVICES OUTREACH

MEDICAL SPECIALIST AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY OUTREACH

The Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP) is designed to improve access to specialist and allied health outreach services for rural and remote communities.

The Australian Government established MSOAP across Australia in 2000. In New South Wales, both the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) and NSW Health were contracted by the Australian Government to manage specialist outreach on its behalf.

RDN now administers over 300 separate outreach services, with substantial growth expected over the coming years.

Since 2007 the program has focused on increasing access to specialist services for Aboriginal communities and has now been expanded to include multidisciplinary teams. In addition, MSOAP provides upskilling and support for local health care providers and also supports travel for students and registrars.

Local organisations, including Aboriginal Medical Services and Divisions/Networks of General Practice, are funded by RDN to ensure effective local management that remains responsive to changing community needs.



RDN now administers four separate programs:

Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP)

This program was the first to commence and now funds more than 120 medical specialist outreach services, the most common being psychiatry, paediatrics, dermatology, gynaecology, endocrinology and cardiology. Medical registrars are also supported under this program.

Indigenous Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (ISOAP)

In 2007, RDN was funded by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSW State Office) to increase medical specialist outreach to rural Aboriginal communities. This program now funds over 30 separate services. Medical registrars are also supported under this program.

Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program-Indigenous Chronic Disease (MSOAP-ICD)

Recognising that the management of chronic disease may require more than the input of a medical specialist, MSOAP was expanded to support the outreach of multidisciplinary teams to Aboriginal communities. This new program is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) *Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes*. Services will be operational in 2010. Medical registrars and students may also be supported under this program.

Urban Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (USOAP)

This new Indigenous outreach program provides urban medical specialist services in culturally appropriate settings such as Aboriginal Medical Services, and aims to support chronic disease management. Services became operational in 2009. Medical registrars may also be supported under this program.

For more information about these programs please call RDN on **02 8337 8100** or email **msoap@nswrdn.com.au** or go to our website at **www.nswrdn.com.au**



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



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