

## Media Release

February 6, 2025

### **CRANApplus calls for a national generalist nursing and midwifery pathway to tackle rural and remote health workforce crisis**

The peak professional body for the remote and isolated health workforce unveils an innovative pre-budget submission to build a health workforce pipeline that will deliver up to 1,000 new nurses and midwives across rural and remote Australia.

#### *CRANApplus Pre-Budget Submission 2025-26*

Today, CRANApplus, the peak professional body for the remote and isolated health workforce, released its workforce pipeline plan to deliver 1,000 nationally accredited nurses and midwives who are professionally, clinically, culturally, and emotionally prepared for practice in rural and remote Australia by 2031.

The submission details a plan for a postgraduate, nationally recognised, rural and remote generalist nursing and midwifery program built on the key pillars of cultural and clinical capability. Additionally, it calls for a fully funded national clinical supervision initiative for all rural and remote nurses and midwives.

CRANApplus Chair, Dr Ann Aitken emphasised that building a robust and sustainable workforce pipeline along with enhanced comprehensive support for current staff is fundamental to resolving the severe workforce instability plaguing rural and remote communities.

CRANApplus' submission highlights the critical juncture for the survival and sustainability of our rural and remote health services across Australia. The proposed 18-month program will assist in stabilising the health workforce and provide career advancement for an estimated 1,000 participants over the 5-year funding cycle, thus adding strength and resilience to a struggling healthcare system.

"If we are to see improvements in existing service disruptions and reduce inflated healthcare costs, urgent investment is needed in a nursing workforce pipeline," Dr Aitken said.

Acting CRANApplus CEO, Emma Barritt says, "Research has shown that millions of dollars annually can be redirected from short-term workforce solutions to quality health care through a stable and capable nursing and midwifery workforce."

"This initiative will save money, and even more importantly, it will save lives.

"We have strong support from employers, universities, and industry bodies, and together, we can deliver a workforce initiative that aligns with sector needs."

CRANApplus' pre-budget submission builds on the key Australian nursing and midwifery peak's calls for comprehensive clinical supervision for all nurses and midwives, advocacy for the Scope of Practice Review recommendations, and further reforms, including the National Rural and Remote Nursing Generalist Framework that fully utilise nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives to improve health outcomes for all Australians regardless of their postcode.



CRANApplus has delivered education and workforce support to the remote health workforce for more than 40 years and is uniquely positioned to provide a sustainable and cost-effective workforce solution to the current workforce crisis in rural and remote communities across Australia.

CRANApplus urges the government to increase its investment in a more sustainable rural and remote generalist nursing and midwifery workforce to ensure equitable access to high-quality healthcare for all Australians, regardless of location.

[CRANApplus' Pre-Budget Submission 2025-2026 can be accessed here.](#)

—  
*CRANApplus is a grassroots, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation that was founded in 1983. It provides services, support and opportunities to nurses, midwives and other health professionals to ensure the delivery of safe, high-quality primary healthcare to remote and isolated areas of Australia.*

*CRANApplus delivers educational courses contextualised to the remote and isolated setting to upskill the remote health workforce. Its Bush Support Line provides free, confidential, 24-hour telephone support to members of this workforce and their families.*

*CRANApplus also serves its membership by representing the workforce and advocating for change within the remote health sector, providing scholarships and grants, facilitating remote health employment, and providing career support and advice.*

#### **Media Contact**

Jody Horne

Marketing & Communications Manager

(07) 4047 6400

[communications@crana.org.au](mailto:communications@crana.org.au)

