

## Rural doctors warn of flood danger

Rural Doctors Foundation urges rural communities to stay safe as the current flooding weather alert level rises, amid the expectation for a wetter than normal season ahead.

“Formed after past floods by rural doctors providing care for their communities, our commitment is to assist rural people prepare for potential health effects of natural disasters such as flood” said Dr Dan Halliday, Chair of Rural Doctors Foundation.

The Rural Doctors Foundation has conducted recent research of rural populations, to find where the greatest gaps in access to care occur, during times of fire, drought, and flood, as well as in our time of COVID-19.

“We have found that the main areas of reduced access to healthcare in flooding events include General Practice and Primary Care, Emergency Services, Mental Health services and access to Medicines” he outlined, in a summary of concerns that rural communities have raised.

Rural Doctors Foundation also encourages people living in rural communities to be aware of the risks associated with driving on local roads which can vary in quality. Particularly, in crossing causeways where flood waters may have invisibly undermined the road base below, increasing the risk of a dangerous crossing.

In preparing for the expected wet season ahead, we ask three things.

1. Care for yourselves and others
2. Commit to a safety plan
3. Keep an open connection available to health and emergency services”,

“Your safety plan should include at least 2 weeks of medicines in reserve, some non-perishable food, first aid kit, torches, battery radio and a means to charge your phone.”, Dr Halliday said.

Rural Doctors Foundation has assisted rural doctors, their practices, and communities through our Emergency Grants program. This assists those affected by past flood events, including the 2019 Gulf Flood event. We are preparing to support our communities again where the need is to maintain good health, and we need your help.

“Every little bit helps to keep rural communities running” said Dr Halliday, “and remember, if it’s flooded, forget it!”

Donations can be made via our website [ruraldoctorsfoundation.org.au](http://ruraldoctorsfoundation.org.au).

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**More information** about the programs of Rural Doctors Foundation, and our Emergency Grant funding program, can be found at [www.ruraldocctorsfoundation.org.au](http://www.ruraldocctorsfoundation.org.au). Donations are tax deductible.

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**Resources:**

Download the Health Outcomes and Issues facing rural and remote communities Report [here](#).

A high-resolution photo of Dr Dan Halliday is available [here](#).