

Rural doctors welcome GP payroll relief as ‘a step forward’

The Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) has welcomed the Queensland Government’s commitment not to subject general practices to additional payroll tax as a positive step towards ensuring all rural Queenslanders have access to general practitioners (GP) and the health care teams they coordinate.

Treasurer Cameron Dick told parliament the state’s Revenue Office would next week give an updated public ruling that patient fees, including the Medicare benefit and any out-of-pocket expenses paid directly by a patient to a GP, would not be subject to payroll tax.

RDAQ President Dr Alex Dunn said RDAQ had, along with its Queensland GP Alliance partners AMAQ, RACGP and ACRRM, been firmly advocating in favour of the decision.

“This announcement provides GPs with a greater level of clarity and certainty around the viability of their practices,” Dr Dunn said.

“While it’s very welcome, this commitment is only one step towards addressing the real and ongoing challenges around access to healthcare in rural communities,” he said.

“Rural and remote GPs provide critical services to their patients every day and when patients can access medical advice early and close to home it helps keep them well and out of hospital.

“Supporting and funding general practice is not an expense, but an investment and it must be delivered in a collaborative way by all levels of government.”

RDAQ’s Rural General Practice [Peer Network](#) brings together rural doctors from across the state to shape the organisation’s advocacy which includes:

- Calling for increased funding for rural and remote people to access general practice.
- A coordinated strategy to identify communities at risk of losing access to general practice and respond with localised solutions.
- Attracting and retaining general practitioners to Rural Communities.

“It is encouraging that issues relating to general practice are being acknowledged by the State Government and we’re taking steps in the right direction. The collective health of Queenslanders depends on it,” Dr Dunn said.

“We look forward to examining the payroll tax decision in detail when the public ruling is made.”

Queensland currently offers an amnesty relating to payroll tax being applied to contracted GPs, in effect until June 30, 2025.

The government extended the [expressions-of-interest](#) period for amnesty from September 29 to November 10 as part of the announcement this week.

RDAQ is Queensland’s leading voice for rural doctors and the communities they serve, providing advocacy and services to ensure equity in healthcare for all Queenslanders. For more information visit RDAQ.com.au