



## ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

If you would like to be on the program for the **15<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference**, providing an abstract is the first step.

The theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference is **Better together!** and the program will include a wide range of topics linking to this theme, and how they relate to the health of people in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. For more information on the theme visit:

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc/theme>

**All presenters are required to submit a full written paper** to be published in the conference proceedings (please refer to paper timelines attached).

Questions about the abstract process may be directed to [speakers@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:speakers@ruralhealth.org.au) or by phoning the Conference team on **02 6285 4660**.

Everything you need to know about the Conference is at [www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc)

### Categories

Abstracts are sought in the following categories:

<b>Research</b>	Previously unpublished research reports, using quantitative and/or qualitative/mixed methods.
<b>Service review</b>	Practical reports of projects on the ground in rural/remote areas and models of successful service delivery.
<b>Policy</b>	Analysis of public policies (not necessarily in the health sector) that impact on health in rural and remote areas.
<b>Arts</b>	Arts and health activities with a rural or remote angle.





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RURAL HEALTH  
CONFERENCE

24-27 MARCH 2019

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## Types of presentations for which abstracts can be submitted

For each abstract, authors are asked to indicate the type of presentation for which it is submitted, from the following options:

### **A general presentation**

A general presentation is a 20-minute oral presentation presented in one of the concurrent sessions. In addition, confirmed presenters are required to submit a full written paper to be published in the conference proceedings.

### **A peer-reviewed paper presentation**

A peer-reviewed paper presentation is a 20-minute presentation presented in one of the concurrent sessions.

In addition to an abstract, a full written paper is to be prepared well in advance of the conference to allow time for the peer-review process. The full paper will be subject to a formal review process and authors will be expected to accommodate the suggestions of the reviewers prior to final acceptance of their paper.

The final paper will be published in conference proceedings and will be identified as 'peer reviewed'.

### **A rogano presentation**

Rogano presentations are designed to facilitate critical conversations and scholarly debate on current research projects. A rogano presenter will have 10-minutes - not to present research results, but to provide an overview of their active research project.

At the end of this brief presentation, they will outline specific issues or dilemmas they are having with their research. The discussion leader(s) and the audience (who will have read the abstract prior to the session) will explore these issues for the remainder of the time (20 minutes). The audience will offer questions and comments that will prompt discussion and provide constructive feedback.

Active researchers, students and postdocs are encouraged to submit abstracts for consideration for a rogano session. Rogano presenters are also required to submit a written paper for publication in the conference proceedings.





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## **A soapbox presentation**

A soapbox presentation is a 10-minute oral presentation presented in one of the concurrent sessions. Confirmed presenters are also required to submit a full written paper to be published in the conference proceedings.

## **A poster presentation**

The author(s) should be available at nominated times to discuss the poster's content with people at the conference. Where possible, an electronic version of the poster (in pdf or jpg format) will be published in the conference proceedings; if the poster is not available electronically, the submitted abstract will be published. Poster presenters may provide a supporting paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings.

## **Abstract review process**

Following a blind-review process by the Abstract Review Committee, authors will be contacted about the status of their abstract (refer to 'Criteria for the assessment of abstracts'). Successful authors may be offered the presentation type of their choice or they may be offered a place in a colloquium, workshop, soapbox or as a poster presentation.

**Note on publication of conference proceedings:** In order to spread the word about issues discussed at the conference to those unable to attend, the Alliance produces a set of conference papers (the proceedings) and publishes it online after the event. Unless special arrangements have been made with the Alliance, presenters are required to provide a full written paper (approximately 3,500 words) for inclusion in the conference proceedings. If an author makes a particular case for submitting their paper for publication elsewhere, they will be asked to prepare a one-page summary of their presentation for inclusion in the conference proceedings.





### Criteria for the assessment of abstracts

The criteria used by the Abstract Review Committee will be as follows:

- **Current and relevant:** the presentation will have an emphasis on and/or relevance to current health issues in rural and/or remote Australia (ie it is a paper for this conference, not another).
- **Analytical:** the presentation will provide more than a description of a program or service; it will draw out insights, what was learnt, recommend new policies and/or actions.
- **New knowledge:** it will provide new ideas or develop further what we already know or have shared previously (ie it is new news, not old news).
- **Conference theme and topics:** it will offer something significant or unique relating to the conference theme.
- **Broadening health:** it may promote understanding of the range of factors and disciplines that impact on the health and wellbeing of rural and remote people.
- **Quality:** it is of high quality scientifically and/or in other ways.

**Note:** Abstracts written from a health consumer standpoint, or with a multi-disciplinary focus about service challenges being overcome, will be particularly welcome.

### Conditions relating to abstracts

- Abstracts should relate to **previously unpublished** papers, so that all papers presented at the conference are original.
- Author names should not appear on the abstract itself; all abstracts will go through a 'blind' selection process, with **no reference to author** or affiliation details.
- Abstracts should be **no more than 400 words** and should be uploaded electronically via [www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc)
- Authors may submit abstracts for **more than one** presentation, but only one presentation per author will be selected.  
Submitting one or more abstract is **no guarantee** of a place on the conference program.
- Assistance with the presentation of an abstract is available, particularly to **first-time presenters**. Where appropriate, assistance can also be offered for the preparation of full papers and presentations.





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## Abstract Guidelines

An abstract should summarise the important points of the proposed presentation to the conference and highlight the original content to be communicated. It needs to be concise yet informative, and contain an outline of the aims, methods, relevance, results and conclusions of the work undertaken.

- Abstracts should be submitted online and be no longer than **400 words**
- Abstracts should be submitted as Word documents (PDF files will not be accepted)
- Abstract titles should be **no more than 12 words**
- Abstracts **should not include author details**. The blind-review process requires that the abstracts are anonymous. However, as part of the online submission process, you will be asked to provide author details separately.
- Abstracts should not include tables, figures, photos or references.
- Abstracts should include a short speaker biography (no more than 200 words) for each presenting author.

## Submission methods

Abstracts should be submitted online via [www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/15nrhc). Authors who are not able to submit their abstract online are asked to contact [speakers@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:speakers@ruralhealth.org.au) to make alternative arrangements.





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## Successful abstracts

Authors of successful abstracts will be offered a place on the conference program. After accepting the offer to present at the conference authors will be required to:

- produce a **full written paper** for inclusion in the conference proceedings to be published on the Alliance's website (see timeline on next page)
- submit a short 400 word bio for each presenting author
- register each presenting author at the discounted speaker registration fee **by the end of January 2019**

## Potential topics

**Note:** this list is to illustrate the breadth of possible topics relevant to the conference. It is not a comprehensive list and is provided only as a guide to the current priority areas that abstracts (and then papers) might cover.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
- Adolescent health
- Carers
- Chronic illness and disability
- Culturally safe workplaces
- Determinants of health
- Digital health and high-speed broadband
- Ears and eyes
- Environmental challenges
- Mental health, social and emotional wellbeing
- Healthy ageing
- Health consumers
- Men's health
- Oral health
- Palliative care
- People in new places (migrants, refugees,)
- Pre-conception health – the first 1,000 days, early childhood and maternal health
- Progressing health through the arts
- Remote health issues (Island-based health (e.g. Flinders, Christmas, Antarctic, Kangaroo
- Rural and remote health workforce issues, education, training rural placements
- Services and systems
- Sustainable Development
- Translating research into practice
- Women's health





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## Timeline for abstracts and papers

There are two timelines—one for peer-reviewed papers and one for general papers and all other presentation types.

### Timeline for GENERAL, SOAPBOX and ROGANO abstracts and papers

<b>1 June 2018</b>	Call for abstracts opens
<b>20 August 2018</b>	Call for abstracts closes
<b>1 October 2018</b>	Authors receive notification of outcome of abstract – successful, waitlisted or unsuccessful
<b>30 October 2018</b>	Authors confirm acceptance and provide 200-word biography
<b>1 December 2018</b>	Conditional program published on Conference website (subject to change)
<b>28 February 2019</b>	Authors to submit full written paper for inclusion in Proceedings
<b>24 – 27 March 2019</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference, Hobart, Tasmania</b>
<b>April 2019</b>	Workshop / colloquium reports due
<b>May 2019</b>	Publication of Conference Proceedings

### Timeline for PEER-REVIEWED abstracts and papers

<b>1 June 2018</b>	Call for abstracts opens
<b>20 August 2018</b>	Call for abstracts closes
<b>1 October 2018</b>	Authors of peer-review papers receive offers
<b>30 October 2018</b>	Authors confirm acceptance and provide 200-word biography
<b>1 December 2018</b>	Conditional program published on Conference website (subject to change)
<b>1 December 2018</b>	Blind peer-reviewed papers received and sent to reviewers
<b>22 December 2018</b>	Reviewers' comments received and sent to authors
<b>31 January 2019</b>	Revised peer-reviewed papers due taking into account reviewer's comments
<b>28 February 2019</b>	Peer-reviewed authors receive final confirmation of place on the program

