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REMOTE RURAL PHARMACISTS

For some time the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) have been aware of difficulties confronting pharmacists who are working in remote rural regions. It was decided to establish a Remote Rural Pharmacists Research Project to identify the legal and other impediments to a pharmacist being able to deliver their full range of services.

An expert reference group made up of seven people with expertise and understanding of the diverse and complex issues confronting pharmacists was set up to oversee the Project. A further twenty eight pharmacists working in remote rural locations contributed to the findings of the Project.

The final report concluded that remote pharmacists experience a myriad of confusing state and national legislation, the impact of which is to “tie the pharmacist to the dispensary bench”. In addition it was noted that current ownership and remuneration models for pharmacists impact negatively on the number of pharmacists in remote areas. As a result Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experience poor quality use of medicine and low medication compliance directly resulting in high mortality and morbidity levels.

The full final report is available on the APC website <http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/>
We welcome your suggestions and comments are welcome. Please direct these to admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au

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