

An end-to-end interprofessional rural qualification for allied health students in South Australia



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Dr Alison Dymmott is a registered Occupational Therapist, and an experienced educator in occupational therapy, interprofessional education and rural generalist practice. Ali is interested in researching ways of improving the lives of rural and remote people through developing the allied health workforce. Her PhD investigated rural allied health workforce challenges and opportunities and specifically explored the impact of the rural generalist pathway on workforce outcomes.

Ali's clinical work has focused on rural generalist practice, paediatrics, rehabilitation, acute care and community health. She has worked extensively in project management for South Australia Health, developing various resources, including a statewide clinical supervision framework and e-learning modules for allied health professionals.

Wednesday 22 October 2025, 12:30 - 13:30



Flinders University now offers rural-origin students the opportunity to enrol in a Bachelor of Allied Health (Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy, or Occupational Therapy), delivered at regional sites around South Australia, with face-to-face and online components. The programme aims to prepare students as contemporary health practitioners who are person-centred and able to work in an interprofessional team with a rural focus. This presentation will describe the programme's structure, resourcing and outcomes, with examples of learning activities, and perspective on innovations and experiences to date. It will appeal to those with an interest in developing the interprofessional and rural health workforce in areas where they are most needed.

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