



## **We are the Rural Doctors of South Africa**

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We are a community of practice; brought together by the reality of our healthcare system, committed to the provision of the best possible quality healthcare in rural and remote health.

We care, we serve and we protect; firstly and most importantly, our patients; secondly, one another; and lastly, our healthcare system. We are resilient, resourceful and relentless. We continue in spite of significant constraints in the healthcare delivery system.

Our nexus is any location where patient healthcare takes place; whether a healthcare facility, or in the context of the family and community. We strive to provide the best care in the most unlikely of places, we generate solutions where others might think this impossible, and we do not give up on our patients, one another, or our facilities.

We are the doctors who bring access to healthcare for those who are rural and remote, those who have little choice and limited options in this life, and those who opt for the quieter side of life. We advocate for our patients, usually locally, but sometimes further afield; and try to be a voice for them, especially when their voices are not heard.

We work collaboratively in teams with nurses, therapists, community health workers and many others. We can achieve little without them. We also strive to work with the communities we serve.

We leverage the support and voice of our members and rural health partners to strategise with the Department of National Health, plan with Provincial Health, and respond to the local context within a district. We are not pre-occupied with riches and comfort, and we thrive on challenge, hard work and adventure. We equip ourselves to deal with most of the problems likely to surface in the course of our work, we are ready to assist each other, and we seek to grow as professionals, as individuals, and as a community.

We are not a union, and we do not protect individual or group rights of doctors as workers; for that, doctors are free to register and associate with their preferred unionised associations.

Our work is a challenge, and it demands strength of character. If you do not yet feel strong enough, you will become so, with our support. One cannot work rural and not be tested. We therefore need one another for guidance, support, and inspiration.



We are the rural doctors of South Africa. Are you? – No, Maybe, Yes? Join us, and sign our value statement, and find another way of making a difference in South Africa, even if for a little while.

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**RuDASA** is an association for rural doctors and medical students of all backgrounds, regardless of gender, race and ethnicity, religion, or if working in public or private practice. Ethical patient-centred care for rural patients, households and communities is the common thread that defines us and brings us together.

**Join RuDASA if you:**

- Want to join a collective of enthusiastic, caring and supportive rural doctors
- Put patients' interests first in your workplace
- Want to be part of, promote and represent an inclusive rural health movement together with our partner organisations
- Stand for equity, non-racialism and a socially just society
- Want to stay informed of and participate in discussions relating to policy as well as clinical practice that contribute to improved access to health care for rural people

***RuDASA does not welcome unethical practices*** such as: the abuse of Remunerative Work Outside Public Service, private locum work by interns or Community Service doctors; or racism and sexism in action or words. Furthermore, members using their position as a member of RuDASA (and its channels of information) to victimise, abuse or undermine rural doctors or healthcare workers, thereby undermining the provision of quality rural health, will be expelled from the organisation.

Signed on this day: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (place)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_