

# Special Issue Call for Abstracts: Lived experiences in the co-design of policy, research, and programs to improve the health of rural and remote communities

*The Australian Journal of Rural Health announces a forthcoming special issue: Lived experiences in the co-design of policy, research, and programs to improve the health of rural and remote communities*

## Guest Editors

Dr Mark J Lock (Ngiyampaa) [chiefeditor@culturalsafetyeditingservice.com](mailto:chiefeditor@culturalsafetyeditingservice.com)

Associate Professor Jacquie Kidd (Ngāpuhi) [jacquie.kidd@aut.ac.nz](mailto:jacquie.kidd@aut.ac.nz)

Associate Professor Narelle Campbell [narelle.campbell@flinders.edu.au](mailto:narelle.campbell@flinders.edu.au)

Associate Professor Faye McMillan (Wiradjuri yinna) [f.mcmillan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:f.mcmillan@unsw.edu.au)

Associate Professor Evelien Spelten [e.spelten@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:e.spelten@latrobe.edu.au)

Professor Donald Warne [donald.warne@und.edu](mailto:donald.warne@und.edu)

## Theme

Authentic power sharing relationships enable real change with rural and remote communities. This can occur through co-design, but what is best practice and what more needs to be done for meaning, measurement, monitoring, and evaluation? This special issue of the Australian Journal of Rural Health calls for papers to explore the topic of lived experience in co-design, whether it be the co-design in the broad areas of policy, research, or programs. We invite submissions relating to different population groups including, but not limited to, First Nations Australians (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander), Māori (Aotearoa/New Zealand), First Nations Peoples worldwide, LGBTQIA+, and CALD and very remote communities; relating to particular health challenges such as mental health, diabetes, cancer care, etc.; and relating to organisational, professional, disciplinary, and political cultures.

## Overview

The prefix 'co-' signifies partnership, joint responsibility or ownership and is found in the concepts of co-design, production, research, creation, consumer, and other 'x' activities. From theory to practice, focussing on rural and remote communities, what does co-design mean to researchers, service providers, policy makers, and citizens? Articles in this special issue will help inform the development of the Australian National Rural Health Alliance policy on rural and remote health co-design. Aotearoa New Zealand content will contribute to Mātauranga Māori and/or projects that honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Submit your papers in the broad areas of research, policy, commentary, reviews, quality improvement and programs. Answer some key questions: what is the current state-of-play, what have you done, what

are the tangible benefits at different levels, and what needs to be done better? The ultimate outcomes should be on the benefits for the lived experiences of rural and remote communities.

### Call for Abstracts

The Guest Editors recommend that interested authors discuss planned contributions with them directly at email addresses provided above. **Abstracts should be submitted via email to the AJRH Editorial Office [ajr.eo@wiley.com](mailto:ajr.eo@wiley.com) before 5pm AEST 15 October 2021.** Abstracts will be reviewed for suitability by the Guest Editors, with the support of the Editor-in-Chief, Russell Roberts. All abstract submissions will be replied to by 29 October 2021. Authors of successful abstracts will be provided with details for submission of a full manuscript by 5pm AEST 3 December 2021. All manuscript submissions will be subject to peer review; approval of an abstract for subsequent full manuscript submission is not a guarantee of publication; editorial decisions are final.

### Timeline

Your submissions will contribute to the Australian National Rural Health Alliance's vision of healthy and sustainable rural, regional, and remote communities. All submissions must meet the aims and scope of the Australian Journal of Rural Health (2021). Papers are to follow the guidelines for submission as per the AJRH site.

- Abstract submission deadline: 5pm AEST 15 October 2021
- Post-abstract approval full-manuscript invitations will be sent by: 5pm AEST 29 October 2021
- Submission of invited full manuscripts due: 5pm 3 December 2021

### References

National Rural Health Alliance (2019). Strategic Plan 2019-2020. Available at <https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/about/strategic-plan>

Australian Journal of Rural Health (2021): Aims and Scope. Available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14401584/homepage/productinformation.html>

Came, H., O'Sullivan, D., Kidd, J., & McCreanor, T. (2020). The Waitangi Tribunal's WAI 2575 Report: Implications for Decolonizing Health Systems. *Health and Human Rights Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2020/06/the-waitangi-tribunals-wai-2575-report-implications-for-decolonizing-health-systems/>

# Abstract requirements

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Please ensure the abstract includes the following elements

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- Abstract title
- Authors, affiliations, and contact details
- Appropriately structured abstract according to the type of manuscript, conforming to the AJRH abstract guidelines (max 250 words)  
(<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14401584/homepage/forauthors.html>)?
- Type of paper (research, policy, commentary, reviews, quality improvement, and programs)

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You are also asked to complete and include the following checklist with your submission. Along with merit of the work these are guidelines that the Editors will use in deciding to invite submission of the full paper for review.\*

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Where appropriate, add your comments.

- Is it an original abstract?
- Are co-participants included as authors?
- Addresses the theme of authentic power sharing relationships?
- Explicitly relevant to rural, regional and remote communities?
- References lived experiences in co-design (of policy, research, or programs)?
- Are population groups explicitly identified?
- Is the 'co-' prefix (co-design, co-creation, etc.) clearly identified?
- What are the tangible benefits at different levels (policy, research, programs, and community, etc.)?
- Does it indicate identifiable outcomes?
- Is it relevant for rural and remote health co-design policy?
- Does it contribute to Mātauranga Māori and/or projects that honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi? (for NZ/Aotearoa papers)

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Please add 2-4 dot points on:

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What is already known on this subject

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What this paper adds

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***\*Please note that an invitation to submit a full paper for review does not guarantee publication, only that it will be sent for peer-review.***