Reviewer's report

Title: A review of characteristics and outcomes of Australia's undergraduate medical education rural immersion programs

Version: 0 Date: 28 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Vernon Curran

Reviewer's report:

Well written scoping review of Australian based rural immersion programs and effect on rural practice outcomes. Introduction provides a satisfactory rationale and need for the scoping review. Methods section outlines the approach for the scoping review. It may be helpful to describe the intent of scoping review for the readers. How do scoping reviews differ from systematic reviews as an example? I would also recommend a definition of "rural" and "metropolitan" for international audiences. It was unclear what the defining parameters of rural vs metropolitan were? These terms are used throughout the paper, however it is unclear what the definition of these terms are. Results provide a concise summary of the existing evidence and this section does add to the evidence in this area by synthesizing the evidence within an Australian context. I would recommend further discussion of the potential confounding variables that could be influencing the outcomes observed in the studies. As an example, are there any existing bursary programs or incentives for graduates across the various states that may have influenced rural practice outcomes in addition to the rural immersion experiences? As well, if there were key recommendations to help advance research in this area, as the authors have identified weaknesses in existing research designs, what would be those key recommendations for future research in this field?

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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