

# Media Release

## Bush patients eager for better rural health

**13 May 2021:** The health of rural patients was brought to the fore when farmers fronted up for free health checks with RDAQ Foundation at BEEF 2021.

RDAQ Foundation teamed up with student doctors from Rockhampton University of Queensland Rural Clinical School to offer the checks.

It was the third time RDAQ Foundation offered health checks at the triennial event.

RDAQ Foundation completed 86 health screening checks – about the same number of checks they completed at BEEF 2018.



Jason Lin, David Neilsen and Zhi Ying Lim from UQ Rural Clinical School with rural patient Jane McGossin, a producer at BEEF 2021.

Age range and gender demographic were also consistent with the level of community engagement seen in 2018 with those in their 56 to 65-year-old age group being most represented.

Foundation Chair, Dr Dan Halliday, said it was heartening to see people taking the initiative to have their health checked while at BEEF 2021.

“People were happy to engage in the conversation aiming towards better health for themselves and their families. It is clear many of those seen want to stay on the farms and close to their families. RDAQ Foundation wants to support this direction as much as possible,” he said.

Dr Halliday said the gathering of information and networking opportunities at BEEF 2021 were invaluable for RDAQ Foundation’s work in improving rural health.

“The Population Health Survey, run as a pilot to gauge the feelings of rural communities towards access to healthcare, will be instrumental in the development of a more refined and targeted piece of work. Attitudes and reflections from people at Beef Australia 2021 with specific consideration of Primary Care, the effects of recent Natural Disasters and COVID-19 Pandemic on health care access are under current analysis with expectation of wider discussion,” he said.

“Along with engagement from individuals it was great to see recognition of the value of the service provided by RDAQ Foundation by prominent rural figures, politicians and rural corporates. It’s hoped we can continue to build on these relationships to further extend health access to rural and remote communities.”

RDAQ Foundation is a health charity established by rural doctors to support better health for rural and remote communities. It is committed to addressing health inequities in rural and remote communities. RDAQ Foundation Chair, Dr Daniel Halliday, is the Medical Superintendent, Stanthorpe Hospital.

### The following representatives are available for interview:

Dr Dan Halliday Chair - RDAQ Foundation – photo [here](#).

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### Media contacts:

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**Anyone wishing to donate to RDAQ Foundation, to fund innovative health initiatives in rural and remote communities, is encouraged to do so by visiting [www.ruraldocctorsfoundation.org.au](http://www.ruraldocctorsfoundation.org.au)**  
Donations are tax deductible.