



# Rural Emergency Responder Network – RERN

Country Health SA Local Health Network  
CHSALHN

## Authors:

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Clinical Planning - Emergency



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# Who is RERN

- > A network of specially trained South Australian rural GPs that attend out-of-hospital emergencies in partnership with the SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) and the MedSTAR retrieval service.
- > RERN doctors are linked to the SAAS communications network allowing them to be called to motor vehicle accidents, farm traumas and other life threatening incidents in country South Australia.
- > In 2012-13 the number of RERN GPs grew to 28 across a range of country SA towns.



**Dr Peter Joyner**  
**Clinical Director Emergency**  
**CHSALHN & RERN member**

# Rural Emergency Responder Network - RERN



■ RDWA - Rural Doctors Workforce Agency - Locum Doctors  
■ RERN Doctors  
 Central Adelaide, Northern Adelaide and Southern Adelaide LHNs

Data Sources:  
 Local Health Networks: 2012 Department for Health & Ageing  
 Roads: 2012 Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure  
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## RERN SITES ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# What does RERN do

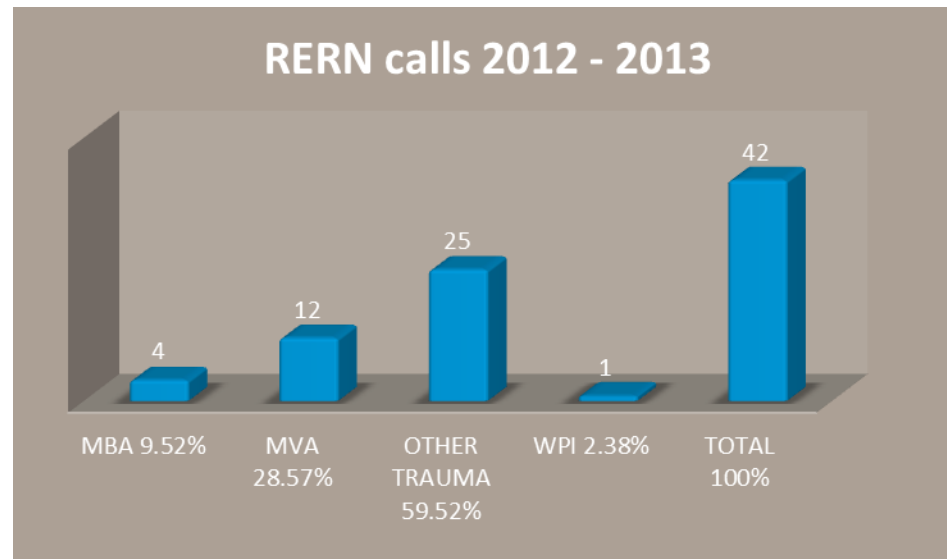
- > RERN GPs in partnership with SAAS, provide advanced clinical support for trauma patients in rural areas, often with support from MedSTAR.
- > The RERN GP has specific emergency and trauma training and is provided with trauma equipment.
- > The RERN GP is therefore able to provide necessary emergency clinical interventions in the first critical period of the trauma where there would be limited or none if a RERN member was not available.



Equipment supplied to members



- > RERN has influenced the treatment that emergency patients receive in the out-of-hospital setting through the early establishment of critical first line management of patients while waiting for either transport to the local hospital or retrieval to a tertiary facility by SAAS or MedSTAR.
- > The RERN GPs are now being called for an increased variety and number of calls, indicative of the importance this service provides in a rural or remote location.
- > The partnership of SAAS, MedSTAR and the RERN GP supports the best possible health outcomes for patients.



- > RERN is now a sustainable model of care.
- > As it is a voluntary group, the doctors are under no obligation to attend call-outs.
- > RERN members are reimbursed by Country Health SA Local Health Network for their time and any clinical procedure that they may perform as part of the emergency call out.
- > RERN program staff, including the Senior Project Officer and the CHSALHN Clinical Director Emergency, engage and work closely with SAAS and MedSTAR to ensure that the service compliments existing emergency response services.
- > There is also a close working relationship between SAAS and MedSTAR with the RERN GPs to ensure the treatment provided meets the current standards of best practice.



**Dr Tim Leeuwenburg  
Kangaroo Island, SA**



- > SAAS and MedSTAR provide clinical support to the RERN doctor both on site and post emergency event. This support includes professional clinical feedback on the event and the treatment the doctor initiated at the time of the incident.
- > This partnership is growing in strength and now has well established communication pathways.
- > Joint training sessions and specific trauma training days are held in conjunction with SAAS and MedSTAR for the RERN GPs.



**Dr Judith Degner**  
**Tumby Bay, SA**

# Building and Strengthening Partnerships

- > MedSTAR, SAAS and CHSALHN meet regularly addressing any issues that arise in a timely manner.
- > Regular meeting of the RERN group, utilising the Digital Telehealth Network video conferencing equipment, has allowed for a reduction in the feeling of isolation of the GPs and enable consensus to be reached on common issues between the group.
- > 2013 Winner of the Building and Strengthening partnerships category of the SA Health Awards



Left to right: Dr. Stuart Baker  
MedSTAR, Dr. Peter Chapman  
Chief Medical Advisor, Jenny  
Smith Senior Project Officer –  
RERN, Jayne Westling  
Principal Project Manger &  
Terry Whales SAAS





## For Further Information:

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