

Supplement : Aotearoa NZ Determination of Rurality

Aotearoa New Zealand lacks a fit-for-purpose rural-urban taxonomy for health research and policy, and the use of a generic classification will most likely mask inequities between urban and rural health care. There are currently more than 15 different ways of defining rural in the NZ health policy and research literature. The most frequently used geographic classification in Aotearoa health literature is the Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ) functional rural-urban classification (Urban Rural Experimental Profile 2004; UREP) which is a generic classification which, however, is problematic when used for health analyses¹. Nixon et al., (2021)² are working on developing and validating a fit-for-purpose NZ 'rural-urban' health classification - the Geographic Classification for Health (GCH) - which should generate a more accurate picture of the state of the health of 'rural' New Zealanders and the extent to which 'rural-urban' health inequities have been 'masked', by existing classifications. The GCH may provide a tool to categorise rural/regional intensive care units in Aotearoa for the purpose of the CICM rural term. Until the GCH is published, the CICM NZ National Committee will assume responsibility for nominating the rural/regional status of hospitals in which CICM Trainees are undertaking ICU and non-ICU terms.

| | Nearest Metropolitan ICU | Driving Distance (kms) | Driving Time (mins) | ICU | Anaesthesia | Emergency | Medicine | Subspecialty Medicine | Paediatric Medicine | Other |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Gisborne Hospital | Waikato | 369 | 305 | | | | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Hawke's Bay Hospital | Waikato | 303 | 231 | | ANZCA | ACEM | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Nelson Hospital | Christchurch | 414 | 323 | | ANZCA | ACEM - Rural | RACP | Cardiology | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Palmerston North Hospital | Wellington | 146 | 136 | Foundation | ANZCA | ACEM | RACP | RACP | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Rotorua Hospital | Waikato | 104 | 87 | | ANZCA | ACEM - Rural | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Southland Hospital | Dunedin | 208 | 162 | | ANZCA | ACEM - Rural | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Taranaki Base Hospital | Waikato | 241 | 201 | Foundation | ANZCA | ACEM - Rural | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Tauranga Hospital | Waikato | 102 | 83 | Foundation | ANZCA | ACEM | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Timaru Hospital | Christchurch | 164 | 130 | | ANZCA | | | | | Provincial |
| Wairarapa Hospital | Wellington | 103 | 98 | | | | RACP | | | Provincial |
| Wairau Hospital | Christchurch | 312 | 251 | | | ACEM - Rural | | | | Provincial |
| Whakatane Hospital | Waikato | 188 | 151 | | | | | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |
| Whanganui Hospital | Wellington | 195 | 172 | | ANZCA | | | | | Provincial |
| Whangarei Hospital | Auckland | 160 | 131 | G6 | ANZCA | ACEM - Rural | RACP | | RACP - Paeds | Provincial |

Table 1: List of Aotearoa Provincial Hospitals suitable for rural experience (draft) based on > 60 minutes driving time to nearest metropolitan intensive care unit

¹ Fearnley, D., Lawrenson, R., Nixon, G. 'Poorly defined': Unknown unknowns in New Zealand Rural Health (2016). *New Zealand Medical Journal*. 129, 1439. 4.

² Nixon, G., Whitehead, J., Davie, G., Fearnley, D., Crengle, S., de Graaf, B., Smith, M., Wakerman, J., & Lawrenson, R. (2021). Developing the geographic classification for health, a rural-urban classification for New Zealand health research and policy: A research protocol. *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. 00, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajr.12778>