

# On-call boost for rural doctors

Posted February 19, 2010 09:02:00

## ABC NEWS

Doctors get on-call allowance boost

Rural doctors are welcoming an increase in on-call allowances for country GPs, but say there are other issues which still need to be addressed.

Under an agreement between Country Health SA and the Rural Doctors Association, on-call allowances will almost double to \$135,000 per year.

South Australian Health Minister John Hill says the deal recognises the importance of the work.

But Association vice-president Peter Rischbieth says weary rural doctors still need more support.

"There are many doctors who are concerned about the long hours that they work, especially if they've been on call and having to attend to patients the next day both at the hospital and in their clinics, so this is an area where many rural doctors are facing the challenges of their professional lives as well as their private lives, quite a challenge," he said.

"There are some important issues that have not been addressed in this current agreement. We need to work with the Government to work out a system of how to support those doctors providing those emergency and on-call services as well as supporting them in their practices and looking at the infrastructure supports that are necessary for increased teaching and training in rural areas."