

## Closing session

### Owen Allen

Thanks everybody. Thanks, Robyn, for a wonderful session for the week and for keeping everything smooth and running to time.

Thanks to the Cairns City Council for this wonderful venue and to the management for hosting over 1,000 delegates in perfect comfort this week.

Thanks to Frank Meany and the technical staff who made the presentations come alive, crucially documented the conference, and set up the intelligent monkey that collated our recommendations.

Thanks to Arts Nexus for the arts in health and all the programming and entertainment that went along with it, including the singing that we've just heard.

Thanks to you, the delegates. You've done justice again to the national rural health movement in Australia.

Thanks to Lesley Fitzgerald who was convinced to come to the conference once again to facilitate the consolidation of our recommendations.

Thanks to the Conference Advisory Committee: Sharon Appleyard from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Helen Catchatoor, Kathy Brown, again from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Anne Miller from Queensland Health; Neil Beaton from Atherton Hospital; Louise Lawler who's here today; Ruth Smiles from Regional Arts South Australia; Jane Mills; Lana Prout, a student from the National Rural Health Students Network; and Susan Reid and Melissa Robertson from Arts Nexus; Pauline Wardle, our most important person on the National Rural Health Alliance because she's our treasurer.

Thanks also for the conference organising team. Lyn Eiszele runs the most professional team of people I think I've met in the whole wide world. And thanks, again, Lyn, for the conference.

Thanks to Gordon Gregory and his staff. Gordon, of course, is the Executive Director of National Rural Health Alliance, for those of you who still don't know, but whose eye for the big pattern as well as the details really puts the conference into the shape that you see it today. And really, his talent for networking, which I think was referred to by John Kerin today in liaising with the government, has truly ensured that our agenda has been on the government's agenda for so many years. So thanks again, Gordon.

And, finally, thanks to the sponsors of the conference: James Cook University, Queensland Health, NHMRC, Beyond Blue, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Endeavour Awards, and the Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations.

And, again, thank you all.