

Ruraldoc

RDWA the heart of *country* South Australia



News from the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency

AUTUMN 2010



Welcome to the AUTUMN 2010 edition of Ruraldoc.

As consumers, providers and policy makers, many of us often experience our interactions with the health system as a "hurry up and stop" affair.

It is fair to say that we have seen some significant "hurry up" behaviour in recent weeks.

The Prime Minister has negotiated the beginnings of the much anticipated National health reform with the State governments. As one of the smaller States this funding methodology has the potential to allow South Australia to continue to provide quality health care without the looming reality that the entire State Budget will be required to support it.

It is important that we recognise that health alone will not sustain a community, the combination of education, employment, housing and a blend of belonging and optimism are all crucial ingredients in contributing to individual and community well being. The evidence of this is always on display when you turn your eyes to Country.

It is important for us all to engage in the debates and discussions that are occurring about who will fund, purchase and provide services be they primary, tertiary or public health services.

What is crucial is that we have an ability to articulate what consideration must be given to rural health

services when these decisions are being taken. Too often rural communities are inadvertently disadvantaged as national agendas and policies are implemented without an understanding of their impact on small vibrant rural communities.

To that end let me say a huge thank you to all the resident GPs and Practices who have completed our triennial survey. The data and information you have provided allows us to produce evidence about what programs work, what issues you face and what the workforce trends are today and for the coming period.

This information is never more potent than when major change is being determined.

This survey is the fourth undertaken by the RDWA and the longitudinal trend analysis covering the last 10 years that we can produce will assist enormously in the RDWA having an ability to argue the specific needs of the current and future rural workforce in South Australia.

Speaking of the future, this edition focuses on the programs and activities targeted at our rural young people who are aiming to make a contribution as the rural workforce of tomorrow.

It goes to the heart of one of the key ingredients of well being, optimism.


Lyn Poole



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- Medical School places for country students
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medSPACE program

The Rural Doctors Workforce Agency has a strong commitment to rural students wishing to study medicine.

Recently we've been instrumental, along with the University of Adelaide and Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, in securing 25 places just for rural students at the University of Adelaide's Medical School.

The guaranteed places in the University's MBBS Program are Commonwealth supported. The RDWA is developing a range of incentives to help increase individual student's chances of securing a place. We believe this will go a long way to helping rural students become rural doctors. Some of the programs RDWA runs to support students include:

READY

medSPACE Ready is a three-day residential workshop held in Adelaide for rural high school students thinking about studying medicine. The next workshop will be held 6 to 8 July at Immanuel College, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University. Our website has more details and an application form - www.ruraldoc.com.au

SET

medSPACE Set is our UMAT Preparation workshops. RDWA has commissioned the specialist company MedEntry to provide three one-day workshops in 2010. They will be held in Adelaide on 29 May, Whyalla on 5 June and Mount Gambier on 19 June. More details can be found on our website - www.ruraldoc.com.au

GO

medSPACE Go is our program to support rural students once they enter university. RDWA supports the activities of all the university-based rural health clubs. Our website has more information - www.ruraldoc.com.au

new

National Rural GP Locum Program

Rural Doctors Workforce Agency in partnership with Rural Health Workforce Australia is providing rural and remote GPs with additional support through the Rural GP Locum Program. The Rural GP Locum Program is designed to supply affordable, quality locum relief to rural and remote GPs. The Rural GP Locum Program is a new Australian Government program funded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

The Rural GP Locum Program has two elements. First the Rural GP Locum Program will recruit doctors who are willing to support their rural and remote colleagues by providing a locum service. These locum doctors will be directly engaged by the GPs for whom they are providing the locum placement. Secondly, the Rural GP Locum Program will provide eligible rural and remote GPs with a subsidy to offset the costs of engaging the locum. RDWA will assist locums to find placements that meet their needs.

There is funding available for a limited number of subsidies during the 2009/10 Financial Year.

The Rural GP Locum Program is independent of the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Locum Service and is administered as a complementary Program.

To register interest in becoming a locum or receiving locum subsidy, please contact Chris Cook, Locum Manager, at locumservices@ruraldoc.com.au or visit the 'National Rural GP Locum Program' page on the RDWA website – www.ruraldoc.com.au



Welcome New Doctors

Dr Ngwazani Mhlanga - Ceduna Family Medical Practice in Ceduna

Dr Weragoda Rathnayaka Senevirathna - Ceduna Family Medical Practice in Ceduna

Dr Sahilu Mazengiya - The Medical Clinic Millicent in Millicent

Dr Irfan Malik - Kadina Medical Associates in Kadina

Dr Tawhid Wahab - Pirie Medical Centre in Port Pirie

Dr Muhammand Asif Ashraf - Moonta Medical Centre in Moonta

Dr Cyril Monteiro - Carlton Medical Centre in Port Augusta

Dr Tim Sullivan - Victor Medical Centre in Victor Harbor

Country Students Wanted

Country students wanted to fill medical school vacancies

South Australian students considering medicine as a career option are being urged to take advantage of a new scheme specifically set up to help them secure a place in the Medical School at the University of Adelaide.

The newly created Rural Background Entry Pathway into the MBBS Program at the University of Adelaide will offer up to 25 Commonwealth-supported placements.

"There has never been a better time for country students to consider medicine," said RDWA CEO, Ms Lyn Poole, speaking at the Pathway Launch.

“We’ve opened up places and we’ve ensured the selection process does not disadvantage rural students.”

From next year, rural students will increase their chances of selection by competing only against other rural students for a place, instead of the total application pool, which usually numbers about 2,000.

RDWA has partnered with the Department of Health and Ageing, the University of Adelaide and the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School to develop a range of incentives to assist students and increase their chances.

"We want rural students to become rural doctors. This new pathway will help ensure that we get them."

"RDWA also has a range of support programs to make sure that country kids who choose medicine as a career have every opportunity to fulfil their dreams."

RDWA has commissioned MedEntry to run UMAT preparation workshops for rural students. They are free and will be held in Adelaide on 29 May, Whyalla on 5 June and Mount Gambier on 19 June.

Anyone wanting more information should contact us on 08 8234 8277.



Pictured at the Rural Background Entry Pathway launch, Minister for Rural and Regional Health, the Hon Warren Snowdon, with three rural medical students L to R - Timothy Bromley, Melissa Shields and Alex Lovell



Pictured L to R: Prof Jonathan Newbury, Joint Head, Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, University of Adelaide; Lyn Poole, CEO RDWA; The Hon Warren Snowdon, MP; Dr Gillian Laven, Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, University of Adelaide; Dr Duncan McFetridge, MP; and Prof James McWha, Vice Chancellor and President, University of Adelaide



Learning about Country Life as a Doctor

The realities, opportunities and excitement of rural medical practice were experienced by 20 medical students during this year's RDWA Clinical Skills weekend.

The students spent time in Quorn learning about all aspects of life as a country doctor.

"We know that a positive rural experience can lead to graduates working in rural and remote communities," said RDWA CEO, Lyn Poole.

"The aim of this weekend is to show-off the exciting type of medicine that is practised in the country."

Quorn's Dr Tony Lian-Lloyd and Dr Avhan Bhagwat along with Clare's Dr Steve Holmes and Dr Corinna Sims assisted the students throughout the weekend.

Among the activities was a simulated disaster where students were able to practise some of their clinical skills.



Medical Students: Emma Rischbieth (Adelaide University) and Danielle Crosby (Flinders University)

Top Left: Students practise their suturing skills on pig's trotters

EduCARE: GP Restore Weekend

(formerly known as Country Practice Retreat)

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June 2010
Pier Hotel, Glenelg

The GP Restore Weekend provides a unique opportunity to pause and reflect on your life as a rural GP, and to refresh and reinvigorate your goals and priorities.

The weekend is conducted by two expert facilitators - Dr Maria Gardiner and Hugh Kearns. Confidentiality is assured.

For further information or to register, please contact Alison Day (Manager of Attraction and Retention) on 08 8234 8277 or email alison.day@ruraldoc.com.au

Rural Health Young Achiever recipient “making a difference”

The recognition of a Keith physiotherapist as the Rural Health Young Achiever highlights the quality of health care that's available in rural South Australia.

Angela Dunsford of Keith received the award at the Young Achiever Awards gala dinner in Adelaide in March.

“Angela is an outstanding contributor to rural health in South Australia,” said RDWA CEO, Lyn Poole.

“She has dedicated her professional life to improving the quality of life of people living in rural South Australia, through improvements in health care,” said Ms Poole.

“She is a great example of some of the amazing people doing amazing work in rural areas.”

Angela Dunsford began working as a self-employed physiotherapist and has built her business to a team of ten staff members, who service four towns across the Limestone Coast region.

Her team provides a comprehensive physiotherapy service to people of all ages, as well as a range of health promotion activities. Angela is a member of numerous health related organisations.

The Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Health Award recognises young people in regional and rural areas who are dedicated to those in need of health services.



Rural Health Young Achiever Award recipient, Angela Dunsford, receives her award from RDWA CEO, Lyn Poole

“There are many who passionately and selflessly provide support, guidance, encouragement, assistance or professional services within the health sector.”

“They offer friendship, hope, inspiration and medical or voluntary assistance to the aged, infirmed, sick, injured and home bound.”

RDWA acknowledges the services, efforts, actions and positive input provided by volunteers, carers and health professionals. These young people create a sense of community spirit, which plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life of those who depend on them.



Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Warren Snowdon, pictured with Ceduna Health Worker Ashleigh Millera and Interim Chair of NATSIHWA Robert Dann

EduCARE

support for rural GPs

Aboriginal Health Workers recognised

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, has launched a peak national body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

Minister Snowdon travelled to Ceduna to launch the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association.

The Federal Government will provide \$1.2 million over three years to establish the Association.

Minister Snowdon said the nation's 1,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are a key part of the health workforce.

"They provide front line services in urban, rural and remote Indigenous communities, promote health awareness, set an example for their communities and help bridge cultural gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people."

Minister Snowdon said the association will help build workforce capacity by bringing together Indigenous health workers and providing them with a strong professional voice.

"Until now the Northern Territory has been the only jurisdiction with a registration board for clinical health workers. The Association will look at national registration and accreditation strategies for the next two years, and help establish upskilling and training support to ensure there's consistency nationally" Minister Snowdon said.

The RDWA provides a suite of continuing professional development programs, called EduCARE, for rural doctors, that includes health and well being support.

EduCARE comprises four elements - GP Orientation, GP Refresh, Locum Renew and GP Restore.

GP Orientation is a weekend of education aimed at newly arrived International Medical Graduates.

It introduces the services and support that RDWA provides to GPs and their families and includes guest speakers who cover a range of topics such as women's health, managing difficult consultations, attaining work/life balance, cultural safety and the intricacies of Australian culture and language.

The next GP Orientation weekend will be held in Adelaide on 10 to 11 July.

GP Refresh offers a program with a more clinical focus.

Conducted over a weekend, it includes topics such as cardiology, endocrinology, medico-legal issues, mandatory reporting as well as information on Medicare and WorkCover.

The GP Refresh weekend is 15 to 16 May at the Majestic Roof Garden Hotel in Adelaide. This weekend is full but a second is scheduled for 4 to 5 September (venue to be confirmed).

Locum Renew is a week long professional development program for rural locum GPs.

This year the program is three days of continuing professional development and two days of rural emergency skills (RESP) training, from 21 to 25 June in Adelaide.

GP Restore enables GPs and their families to relax and focus on their health and well being. Dr Maria Gardiner and Hugh Kearns facilitate the weekend, which is tailored to individual needs. GP Restore will be held in Adelaide on 26 to 27 June.

If you would like more information please contact us on 08 8234 8277.

The Association will provide advocacy, mentoring and support for Indigenous health workers and will provide information through a new website at www.natsihwa.org.au

RDWA lends expert hand to Interstate Business Services

The highly successful Business Services of SA's RDWA will be used as a model in other state workforce agencies.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing is funding a pilot project to assist in the establishment of Business Support Units in Tasmania and Perth.

RDWA SA has assisted these pilot sites by running collaborative workshops in Adelaide and Launceston. The workshops have showcased RDWA's Business Services that are on offer to rural and remote practices.

RDWA's General Manager, Mandy McCulloch and Business Services Manager, Carys Ingram, visited the Tasmania office to meet with the staff involved in the project and explore the various structures that support viable rural and remote medical practices.

The variety of contractual arrangements that are utilised by practices and GPs in SA were also examined.

Staff from Western Australia have also visited the RDWA to gain a deeper understanding of entity structures, as well as exploring the opportunities and challenges in relation to contracting.

Business support has been offered through the RDWA for more than five years. Many rural practices have accessed these services, which continue to be highly valued.

Learning about employment

Learning how to comply with new employment legislation was the subject of two information sessions run recently by RDWA in conjunction with Piper Alderman.

The sessions focused on the Fair Work Act 2009, the recent changes to the National Employment Standards and the Modern Awards that impact on rural general practice.

The sessions were well attended, highlighting the need and the importance of understanding the legislation. The RDWA has worked to secure clarification on issues within the Award and will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

Any rural practice seeking information about employment relations can contact Business Services Manager, Carys Ingram, on 08 8234 8277.



Staff from Eyre Peninsula practices and the Division of General Practice attended the Fair Work Act information session held at Port Lincoln



RDWA 2010 Calendar

RDWA Annual General Meeting	24 September ★
RDWA Annual Conference	12 - 14 November ★
EduCARE	
GP Refresh Majestic Roof Garden Hotel, Frome Street, Adelaide Venue to be confirmed	15 - 16 May (full) 4 - 5 September ★
Locum Renew (includes 2 days RESP) Adelaide Oval Function Centre	21 - 25 June ★
GP Orientation Weekend Majestic Roof Garden Hotel, Frome Street, Adelaide	10 - 11 July ★
GP Restore (formerly known as Country Practice Retreat) Pier Hotel, Glenelg	26 - 27 June ★
Rural Emergency Skills Program (RESP)	
Eyre Peninsula - Port Lincoln	4 - 5 June
Flinders Far North - Port Augusta	30 - 31 July
Riverland - Baramba	13 - 14 August
Adelaide Hills - Mount Barker	24 - 25 September
Mid North - Port Pirie	22 - 23 October
Yorke Peninsula - Moonta	19 - 20 November
Murray Mallee - Murray Bridge	3 - 4 December
RAH Trauma Course Adelaide	7 - 9 July ★
medSPACE students program	
medSPACE Ready: 'What you need to know about medical school' residential workshop Adelaide	6 - 8 July ★
medSPACE Set: UMAT Preparation Adelaide Whyalla Mount Gambier	29 May 5 June 19 June ★
medSPACE Go: University Rural Clubs events CV and interview skills workshops APY Lands Program Mannum Clinical Skills Day Riverland Clinical Skills Weekend	18 and 26 May 26 - 31 August August 3 - 5 September ★
Practice Managers Program Practice Managers Upgrade to Diploma (existing students)	28 - 29 May

Further details can be found online at
www.ruraldoc.com.au or phone 08 8234 8277