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### **Local doctors explore the Superpit**

How do you acclimatise overseas trained doctors into the Aussie way of life, especially in a mining town like Kalgoorlie-Boulder? You take them to Australia's biggest mine, the Superpit.

Last weekend a number of local doctors involved in the Forward to Fellowship program facilitated by Rural Health West were able to experience the wonders of the KCGM Superpit. The Forward to Fellowship program provides newly arrived overseas trained doctors with professional support to assist them in gaining their Australian qualification.

"For local doctors, this experience provided them with the opportunity to learn more about the working conditions of many of their patients," said Ms Robyn Sorenson, Rural Health West Regional Advisor for the Goldfields.

"It was also a social occasion allowing the families of the doctors to meet and connect. Part of the Forward to Fellowship program is to not just to provide professional assistance to the doctors, but to also facilitate social opportunities and support to their families," Ms Sorenson said.

Mayor of The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Mr John Bowler has been supporting the Forward to Fellowship program from its inception.

"The social opportunities have provided families with the chance to not only meet and network with each other, but also other locals in the community. This can help to build understanding around local issues, and expectations patients have when visiting a doctor," he said.

"We hope that by providing them with these wonderful experiences, they will be encouraged to stay in Kalgoorlie-Boulder once they have received their Australian qualification."

The day ended with wonderful afternoon tea of fresh scones, jam and cream at Rydges Kalgoorlie.

### **ENDS**

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As the leading rural health workforce agency for Western Australia, Rural Health West is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments responsible for the recruitment and retention of a highly skilled sustainable health workforce to meet the needs to rural and remote Western Australians communities.