



## Media Release

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### **Beckett's Choose Country for rural career**

Like all Australian states and territories, it remains challenging to encourage Australian general practitioners to live and practise in rural and remote locations. Conscious of this ongoing need in Western Australia, Rural Health West places a strong focus on attracting the future workforce to rural practice and has a program specifically dedicated to this. The Rural Health West Future Workforce Program provides health students and recent graduates with opportunities to experience rural practice through vocational experiences, workshops and conferences. Rural Health West also provides a free recruitment service and can assist graduates who are looking to work in rural Western Australia with finding the perfect job.

Dr Jeremy Beckett, GP anaesthetist and Dr Bethany Nelson a GP obstetrician both knew they wanted to work in a rural location after graduating. Originally coming from the country, they had a shared vision to one day return. They aimed to finish their procedural training in Perth at the same time to allow them to move to Geraldton where they continued their general practitioner training. This pathway gave them the opportunity to utilise their skills in the regional community and provide a variety of medical services to their valued patients.

"The first thing is not to be afraid of taking the plunge and going rural," said Dr Jeremy Beckett, "The reality is, the breadth of skills and life experience you get in the country only enriches your résumé and your ability to be able to go into whatever it is you would like to do later."

Having the flexibility to focus on their four children is only one of the benefits of working in a rural location. The doctors are able to control their work load and make time for family, whether they visit the jetty to go fishing after work or head down to the beach in the mornings.

"And the irony of it is, we get paid very well, more than we would in the city, for having a better life," said Dr Bethany Nelson.

"This couple are an excellent example of how living and working in a regional area has led to a healthy and happy work-life balance," stated Kelli Porter, Rural Health West General Manager for Workforce. "Hopefully this will encourage students and graduates to consider pursuing a rural career."

There are many opportunities for medical students and prevocational medical graduates to undertake rural placements throughout Western Australia at every level of training. The Rural Practice Pathway aims to provide medical students and doctors-in-training with the opportunity to experience rural practice at whatever stage of their career they are in.

To watch the short vignette and hear more about the Becketts' rural career pathway, and to learn more about the Rural Practice Pathway, visit [www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/choosecountrystories](http://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/choosecountrystories)

## **ENDS**

### **Media enquiries:**

Jessica Woolfson, Communications and Marketing Officer      08 6389 4500

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.