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Junior doctor receives rewarding experience working in Pilbara region

A long time interest in rural medicine has seen Bunbury-born Dr Emma Jones become the star of a short new vignette promoting rural medical training opportunities.

After spending time in Kalgoorlie and Bunbury as part of her early medical training, Emma knew she wanted further exposure to rural general practice and applied to participate in the Community Residency Program (CRP).

Coordinated by the WA Country Health Service, the CRP is an exciting and challenging training program that gives junior doctors the opportunity to experience community-based medicine in different rural locations before committing to their chosen speciality.

“When you’re a junior doctor working in the hospital system, you don’t have many chances to work in general practice prior to applying to a GP training program,” said Emma.

“One of the greatest benefits of the Community Residency Program is giving you the variety in clinical experience in a setting where you have the opportunity to try out new skills.”

Based at Nickol Bay Hospital during the filming of the video, Emma also visited Onslow fortnightly to work in the primary care clinics.

“The program has definitely made me a much more competent and more confident independent practitioner ... I’ve seen some paediatrics which I wouldn’t get to see if I was based in a city placement,” said Emma.

The CRP is one of the pathways that can lead to a career in rural general practice. Rural Health West plays a significant part in attracting the future health workforce to rural and remote Western Australia.

“This program is instrumental in giving junior doctors a taste of country life and a true understanding of rural general practice” said Kelli Porter, Rural Health West General Manager for Workforce.

“Participants have the chance to try-before-they-buy, so to speak, which is vital to creating a sustainable primary health care service within rural communities.”

Emma says that she would absolutely recommend the CRP to anyone who is thinking about a career in general practice as it can be a very rewarding experience.

“It’s always changing, you’re always learning ... it is a great opportunity to go to a rural location, to see how medicine is done outside of Perth and be part of a really nice rural hospital that has a friendly atmosphere.”

The new vignette can be viewed on the Rural Health West [website](#).

ENDS



Dr Emma Jones, star of the new vignette.



Dr Emma Jones and supervisor Dr Chris at Karratha Health Campus

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Rural Health West is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for recruiting and retaining a highly skilled sustainable health workforce that meets the healthcare needs of rural and remote communities in Western Australia. We are primarily funded through the WA Country Health Service and the Australian Government Department of Health.