

Health Workforce Queensland

Rural Immersion Programs

24 February 2021



**Health Workforce
Queensland**

What is the John Flynn Placement Program?

- The John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP) is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health.
- The JFPP is administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Network with Health Workforce Queensland as the Lead Agency.
- The Program is named after John Flynn, a Presbyterian Minister that assisted in establishing an Aerial Medical Service - known today as the Royal Flying Doctor Service.
- The Program is designed to attract the future medical workforce into a remote or rural career.
- Each year, the Program provides 300 undergraduate medical students the opportunity to experience clinical practice and lifestyle in remote and rural locations across Australia.



How does the JFPP work?

Professional Mentor

- Successful medical students are matched with a doctor in a remote or rural location.
- Students are required to complete 8 weeks of placement over 3 to 4 years
- During the placement, the students will work alongside their mentor where they will experience the diversity of daily rural practice firsthand.
- The students will go back to the same mentor each year



How does the JFPP work?

Host & Community Contact

- Outside of their clinical placement, students are encouraged to fully immerse themselves in rural life.
- During their placement, they will stay with a local rural resident at their home - their community host
- Where available, the students will also be provided with a community contact.
- The host and community contacts are there to give the students insight into the social and cultural aspects of living in a remote and rural community.



Challenges due to Covid in 2020

- Placements cancelled due to border closures and travel restrictions
- Reductions in mentors and community hosts and contacts
- Reductions in applications from students
- From an interstate model to an intrastate model

We are in need of more mentors, community hosts and contacts.

There are benefits available so please visit our website

www.jfpp.com.au or reach out to the team via

JFPP@healthworkforce.com.au

Thank you

GROW Rural video



- <https://healthworkforcequeensland.wistia.com/medias/1qksfyqmr2?wvideo=1qksfyqmr2>

What is GROW Rural?



- GROW Rural is a three year rural immersion program
- Provides medical, nursing, midwifery & allied health students the annual opportunity to experience clinical practice and the unique lifestyle of rural Queensland communities
- GROW Rural programs run in Central and South West Queensland
- GROW Rural fosters inter-collaborative practice between students and rural health professionals
- GROW Rural advances a 'grow your own' approach by directly involving rural communities in program design and delivery

The Aim of GROW Rural

Rural Immersion Experience

- The aim of GROW Rural is to encourage and influence health students to become rural health practitioners
- The three year program establishes connections between students and experienced health professionals, rural communities and their people



"Getting to meet and hear from health professionals in rural health practice. I really enjoyed hearing their stories and experiences"

Abigail Payne – OT student

The Aim of GROW Rural

Longitudinal Study

- Student evaluations are conducted annually
- Feedback from the 2017-2019 GROW Rural cohort indicated the students believed GROW Rural:
 - had been a rewarding and worthwhile experience
 - delivered excellent rural lifestyle and cultural awareness experiences
 - had a positive impact on their future rural career intentions
- GROW Rural Graduates:
 - RNs - Longreach, Cardwell, Boyne Island
 - OT - Roma
 - Dietitian - Gidgee Healing, Mt Isa
 - Paramedicine - Townsville



Our incredible time in Central Queensland with GROW Rural has confirmed my passion for rural health and has connected me to a group of like-minded individuals who I hope to one day call colleagues.

The Next Step

Going Rural

- Nursing, midwifery and allied health students lack the same opportunities as their medical peers to gain remote and rural experience, to maximise multidisciplinary exposure and build interprofessional networks
- Going Rural provides accommodation and travel assistance for nursing, midwifery and allied health to undertake rural placements
- Takes a strategic approach to the student career journey by;
 - supporting the GROW Rural program; or
 - as a standalone program
- Maintains the connection with rural communities and their health professionals
- Increases graduate employment opportunities

