

WE WANT A DOCTOR

THEN START WITH A STUDENT

HOW TO MAKE
YOUR STUDENT'S
PLACEMENT
A POSITIVE
EXPERIENCE



NSW RURAL DOCTORS NETWORK

WHAT CAN I DO?

A CHECKLIST FOR PRACTICES HOSTING MEDICAL STUDENTS AND JUNIOR DOCTORS

MAKE IT EASY

Meet and Greet	Go and say hi	Let them know that you're pleased that they've come to your practice and that you're there to help.
		Find out what they're interested in and offer to help with introductions and invitations.
		Have a welcome dinner or BBQ. Include their family.
Orientation	Physical – where is everything	Take them around the town and show them where everything is. Give them a map.
	Resources – who to contact for what	Prepare a folder or booklet with names and contact details of relevant people and organisations and how they can help. Keep it up to date.
	Services – what's available when	Shops, restaurants, library, cinema, garbage collections etc. What's available and when do they operate. Include this information in a resource folder.
	Transport	Provide information about any local transport that's available including taxis.
Accommodation	Suitability	Ensure the accommodation provided is appropriate and includes cooking facilities, separate study areas and telephone and internet services.
	Maintenance	Make sure the house is properly maintained.
		Make sure the house is appropriately furnished and equipped.
	Preparation	Notify them in advance what they will need to bring with them: Bedding, Linen and Cooking or household equipment.
		Ensure someone has checked the house and equipment prior to their arrival.
		Arrange for someone to meet them on their arrival at the house and show them where everything is.
		Put some milk in the fridge and breakfast for the first morning.
Trouble shooting	Let them know who they can contact if they have any problems with their accommodation.	
The Basics	Telephone	Ensure the house has a working telephone. Let them know who to contact if the phone isn't working.
	Internet	Medical Students and JMOs need reliable internet access. Let them know what's available and who to contact if they have a problem.
	Coffee	Let them know where they can get good coffee. This is just as important as internet access!
Practice Management	Plan for their placement	Prepare an activity roster incorporating time with visiting specialists. Provide opportunity to participate in the full range of clinical activities. Try to accommodate any special clinical areas.
Family	Partners	Help their partner find work if they want it.
		Include their partners in social activities. Introduce their partners to people with similar interests.
	Children	Help them find suitable child care, schools, pre-schools and play groups. Help them arrange visits/make contact with relevant people.
Co-ordination	Co-ordinate your support	Limit the number of people knocking on their door. Don't overwhelm them.
		You don't have to do it all. Work with community groups, the hospital and training providers etc to provide this support.

MAKE IT FUN

Introductions	Provide contact details of any relevant groups and clubs. Have someone from the groups or clubs they're interested in contact them and invite them to their next game, activity or night out.	Sports groups Soccer Rugby League Netball Hockey Tennis Dance/ballet Cycling Running Rowing/kayaking Bush walking Horse riding Yoga/gym
Invitations	Include them in local events.	B&S balls Shows and festivals Presentations/awards nights
Interesting medicine	Incorporate special interest areas, especially Indigenous health.	

MAKE IT EDUCATIONAL

Consider a timetable

Make sure they know when to turn up and where

Make sure the university curriculum is clear and followed

Find out their areas of interest and tailor a program to suit

Discuss their learning goals and try to meet them

Involve them in as much medicine as possible

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Research shows that students who have a positive rural experience during their training are more likely to choose a career in rural medicine.

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WHO CAN HELP?

NSW Rural Doctors Network

The NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) is a non-Government, not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and the NSW Ministry of Health. The RDN supports and assists communities in rural and remote NSW to establish and maintain medical services and can help with all aspects of medical recruitment.

Contact: Project Officer - Education and Training
NSW Rural Doctors Network
Suite 3, Level 5
Gateway 241
MASCOT NSW 2020

Tel: 02 8337 8100

Email: students@nswrdn.com.au

Web: www.nswrdn.com.au

NSW Rural Medical Family Network

The NSW Rural Medical Family Network (RMFN) is a program operated by the RDN to support the partners and families of GPs and students in rural NSW.

Contact: Liz Wragge
Rural Medical Family Network
203 Kelly St
SCONE NSW 2337

Tel: 02 6545 2461

Email: info@rmfn.org.au

Web: www.rmfn.org.au

Primary Health Networks

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) work directly with GPs and practices to facilitate improved outcomes for patients. There are 10 PHNs in NSW.

To find your PHN, go to: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/phn-maps-nsw

Regional Training

Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) deliver general practice training in Australia. GP Synergy is the RTO for all of NSW.

Contact: GP Synergy
36-42 Chippendale St
CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Tel: 02 9818 4433

Web: gpsynergy.com.au

University Departments of Rural Health/ Rural Clinical Schools

All the major medical schools have Departments of Rural Health or Rural Clinical Schools that enable their students to complete some of their undergraduate training in a rural location.

There are University Departments of Rural Health in Lismore, Tamworth and Broken Hill and Rural Clinical Schools in Tamworth, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn and Nowra. There are a further 18 training sites in NSW affiliated with the Clinical Schools.

Your Local Council

Your local council may be able to assist with accommodation, resources, partner employment, child care and welcoming events.

Community groups such as sport clubs, CWA, Rotary and the Lions Club may also be able to assist with introductions and invitations.

NSW Rural Doctors Network

Tel: 02 4924 8000

Email: info@nswrdn.com.au

Web: www.nswrdn.com.au

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