

# RURAL HEALTH CAREERS

**EXPLORE THE  
POSSIBILITIES**



**RWAV**  
RURAL WORKFORCE  
AGENCY VICTORIA

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# LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

# CRAVE NEW EXPERIENCES?

# WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

**A career in rural health offers challenging and diverse work, strong support networks to prepare you for the workforce and a great sense of community.**

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## VARIETY

Whether you've chosen medicine, nursing or allied health – the rural setting provides opportunities for hands-on learning in smaller groups, and includes a variety of patient issues.

Working in rural health settings will help you develop a broad understanding of patient care so when it's time to graduate, you will be resourceful and prepared for the workforce.

And, if you choose to stay in rural Victoria, you'll find an increasing number of career pathways available.

## SUPPORT

Health professionals are in high demand in rural and regional Victoria and support for young people in these careers has never been stronger.

To help you achieve your goals, universities and TAFE offer a wide range of career pathways. The possibilities are truly endless!

Universities often offer special assistance to help students from rural and regional backgrounds with entry into their courses, and many scholarships are available to help with the costs of living away from home.

In return, gaining a professional qualification in health means greater earning potential as your career progresses.

## COMMUNITY

Choosing a rural health career is not all about work.

Connecting with the local community is a big part of the role and it's an opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives.

With clinical placements and internships you will quickly become a valued member of the healthcare team and community.

Plus, you will enjoy an excellent work-life balance – a chance to explore lesser known areas of Victoria, relish in the wide-open spaces, and imagine how much time you'll save with little or no commute!

So, if you are open to new experiences, looking for a challenge and want to give back to the community – then a career in rural health is for you.





# **RURAL STUDENT CONNECTIONS**





# Q&A WITH DR LOUISE MANNING

**Dr Louise Manning graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 2016. For Dr Manning, the hard work in school helped her to gain perspective on the journey ahead. Her inspiring story is about refusing to give up in the pursuit of making an impact in people's lives.**

## **What was the university application process like?**

Growing up in a rural area without exposure to many health career options during high school, I never even thought it could be possible to become a doctor one day. It wasn't until I was half way through my first year of a Bachelor of Science degree that I knew a career in medicine was for me. I studied hard and sat the GAMSAT (an entrance examination used for post-graduate entry into medicine, dentistry and some physiotherapy degrees) in both the second and third years of my science degree. Unfortunately, I missed out first time around so I ended up doing an Honours degree and getting some research experience. That year really helped me gain some perspective and helped solidify the idea that becoming a doctor was something I was going to fight for. I was successful in my application to medical school via the GEMSAS process (Australia-wide postgraduate matching process for entry into medical school).

## **How does your program prepare you for a career in the rural workforce?**

I was a member of the University of Melbourne's Rural Clinical School and was lucky to spend two and a half years living, working and studying in central and northwest Victoria. Studying within a supported environment really helped to strengthen my love for rural practice and I enjoyed meeting new people and becoming a member of a new community. Learning within a rural environment also helped me to develop the skills applicable to rural practice when I returned later to work.





**Are there any networks that supported you in your rural healthcare journey?**

Becoming a member of my University's Rural Health Club really helped open my eyes to all the fantastic organisations dedicated to improving health outcomes for rural communities and supporting students and graduates to live and work in these settings. My involvement with RWAV, in particular over these past few years, has opened my eyes to the opportunities available to health professionals wanting to work in rural practice.

**What have you enjoyed most about living in a rural community?**

It's hard to pick what I enjoy most about living in a rural community given there are so many positives.

I love that I can get around town within 10 minutes and that I never have to sit in traffic. I love meeting resilient, kind and friendly community members on a daily basis and feeling a part of something bigger than myself by participating in the community through sport and community theatre. I love being able to access fresh produce in my own garden because I have the space to have a veggie patch. I love the easy access to biking and walking trails, vineyards and cellar doors, as well as local restaurants trying to outdo themselves in all things delicious. But first and foremost, I like waking up in the morning and being able to go outside and breathe fresh air, which is something you just can't get in the city.

**What challenges has working in rural healthcare offered, and how did you overcome them?**

Rural practice is diverse and more often than not, you are expected to work in settings without all the bells and whistles of metropolitan practice, such as 24/24 imaging and pathology services. While this is challenging at times, with the help of experienced seniors and telehealth you can develop and hone your clinical decision-making skills, so that you can still provide excellent quality care without it.

**What advice do you have for students considering a healthcare career?**

Healthcare is one of the most rewarding areas you can work in, and one of only a few where you are able to have a tangible impact on individual people's lives. If that's something that appeals to you then you should 100% go for it! It's not always going to be easy, but it's important not to underestimate yourself because if becoming a nurse, doctor, occupational therapist, physiotherapist or speech pathologist is what you dream about then you should make it happen.

In high school, Louise didn't have much exposure to health career options



Continues to study Bachelor of Science (three years), but studies for and sits the GAMSAT (entrance examination for postgraduate entry into medicine, dentistry and some physiotherapy degrees)



Graduates from a Bachelor of Science, and decides to do an honours degree (one year) to get some research experience. Honours year helps her gain perspective, and solidifies her decision to become a doctor



Starts studying Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne.

Halfway through her first year of studying, Louise realises that she wants a career in medicine



Is invited to interview for a postgraduate degree in medicine, however misses out



Louise is successful in her application to medical school via GEMSAS (a nationwide postgraduate matching process for entry into medical school) (four years)



Joins Outlook – University of Melbourne’s rural health club. Becomes treasurer of Outlook in penultimate year, and president in final year

Outlook

Begins working in Bendigo



As a member of University of Melbourne’s Rural Clinical School, she was able to spend two and a half years working and studying in central and north-west Victoria



Graduates from University of Melbourne with a Doctor of Medicine

# LOUISE MANNING PATHWAY TO MEDICINE

# Q&A WITH NURSE EMMA WYLIE

**Emma graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Federation University Australia. For Emma, rural healthcare provides her with the flexibility to work within a number of different working environments, and provides her with the knowledge that she is making a meaningful difference in people's lives.**

## **What was the university application process like?**

The university application process is one of the many daunting things Year 12 students face. Fortunately, my local secondary college had numerous supports in place to assist students with meeting the required prerequisites, completing applications and seeking scholarships and financial support.

## **How did your program prepare you for a career in the rural workforce?**

The Bachelor of Nursing course at Federation University required students to undertake a minimum of 800 hours clinical placement, many of which were spent in rural hospitals across Gippsland. These placements enabled me to gain experience in a number of different healthcare settings such as district nursing, emergency, midwifery, medical and surgical wards and theatre. This program prepared me for a career in the rural workforce by exposing me to an area of healthcare where both the staff and the clients were isolated from facilities that are often readily available in an urban setting. I learned how staff overcome these limitations and what steps are put in place to ensure clients receive the highest quality of care, despite the potential lack of resources.





**Why did you choose to work in rural healthcare?**

I grew up in a rural town in Gippsland with a population of approximately 5,000. The bright lights of the city never appealed to me and from a young age I knew I would always choose the rolling hills over the concrete slabs. Rural healthcare has enabled me to work across a vast number of environments, which cannot be as easily accommodated in metropolitan hospitals. I have been fortunate enough to be rotated every three months to a different area of my workplace including medical, surgical, district nursing and emergency. By doing so I have gained a broad skill set that will prove invaluable throughout my nursing career.

**What do you love about your job?**

The practical and interpersonal skills I gain from my job everyday are extremely valuable and both socially and personally rewarding. Not one day is the same as another, and every day I learn something new. I have witnessed miracles and connected with people when they are at their most vulnerable. I have been welcomed into the homes of strangers and supported them through both their blessings and their tragedies. It is a privilege to be able to do something meaningful and fulfilling and call it my job.

**What challenges has working in rural healthcare offered, and how have you overcome them?**

Working in rural healthcare has provided me with a number of new and welcome challenges. Staff are often limited in rural hospitals; therefore, organisation and time-management skills are essential. When working within the community as a district nurse, the independence and heavy responsibility also proved to be challenging as I didn't have the support and guidance from doctors, nursing peers and other healthcare staff that are readily available within the hospital setting. Adjusting to this new environment was a welcome challenge and again demonstrated the importance of teamwork among healthcare professionals within the community. My communication and assessment skills developed significantly during this time as many of my interactions with medical staff occurred over the phone and through correspondence.

**What advice do you have for students considering a healthcare career?**

A career in healthcare enables you to make real differences in the lives of others, and the relationships formed and skills developed are irreplaceable. Healthcare can take you across the world and the opportunities are endless. Nursing is an adventure, and my adventure has just begun!

**In high school, Emma has lots of support in place to assist students with meeting the required prerequisites of their chosen pathways, completing applications, & seeking scholarships and financial support**



**Gains a scholarship to attend Federation of University Australia in rural Gippsland**

**Federation**  
UNIVERSITY • AUSTRALIA

**Joins programs such as the Golden Key International Honour Society**



**Applies for VTAC to study Bachelor of Nursing at Federation University Australia**



**Commences Bachelor of Nursing and is required to undertake 800 hours of clinical placement**



Throughout her studies  
she works part-time  
in hospitality



Prior to Emma's final  
year of university,  
receives a RWAV Rural  
Clinical Placement grant  
to assist with costs for  
a clinical placement  
at West Gippsland  
Hospital in Warragul



Successfully secures  
a permanent position  
at West Gippsland  
Healthcare Group where  
she has been rotated  
through medical and  
surgical wards, district  
nursing, and emergency



The clinical placements  
help Emma to prepare  
for a career in the  
rural workforce and  
exposes her to a variety  
of different  
healthcare settings



Undertakes a computer  
match process of  
applying for a graduate  
program in rural Victoria

# EMMA WYLIE PATHWAY TO NURSING

# Q&A WITH MEDICAL STUDENT JAMES O'SULLIVAN

**James recently graduated from a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree at Monash University. The program has allowed James to gain experience working in rural Victoria as well as overseas. His story is about following his passion and undertaking all the opportunities that come his way.**

## **What was the university application process like?**

The program has changed since I first went through the application process, but I applied for the Extended Rural Cohort (ERC) program. This allowed me to undertake most of my clinical placements in rural/regional parts of Victoria. I had to sit the UMAT exam and a Multiple Mini Interview as part of the selection criteria.

## **How does your program prepare you for a career in the rural workforce?**

The ERC program was fantastic in showcasing both large regional hospitals and smaller rural hospitals and clinics. It shows you the important connection between rural general practice and internal hospital physicians and surgeons. It does this by making the majority of your rotations within the same regional district, which means you will often see the same patients on your GP rotation as you do when you are in the hospital on specialty rotations. Additionally, I worked with specialists I was referring patients to from the GP clinic. This allows you to get a good understanding of how the healthcare system works and what the doctors try to do to make it easier for patients who live further from town. Even the students who don't undertake the ERC pathway will have regional placements to get a taste of life in the countryside.







### **Where did you undertake your placements?**

In third year, my first clinical year, I was placed in Bendigo and did general terms in surgery and medicine, as well as some specialty terms such as oncology and renal. Fourth year included obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics and psychology in Mildura and general practice in Swan Hill. In fifth year, I had rotations in Box Hill in Melbourne and more rotations in Bendigo and Mildura, as well as an elective rotation in the Philippines.

### **Are there any networks that supported you in your rural healthcare journey?**

I joined Wildfire, Monash University's rural health club, which was really helpful in meeting other rural-minded students with similar aspirations. They also provide lots of social and professional activities for students to get more out of their rural placements. I was lucky to receive a grant from RWAV which helped to cover some of the extra costs faced when having a rural placement.

### **What have you enjoyed most about living in a rural community?**

I really love feeling part of the community and getting to know everyone in the workplace. It's great when people recognise you, especially when you run into a patient's relative down the street and you can hear how they have been going since their hospital visit. I also love the outdoors and it's really nice to be so close to beautiful lakes and forests where you can really relax without the hustle and bustle of the city.

### **What challenges has working in rural healthcare offered, and how did you overcome them?**

When you are far away from family and friends you can get a bit lonely at times, but I found by engaging in the community, people were very friendly and accepting and it is easy to make new friendships. I also found that it wasn't too hard to travel four to six hours back to see friends fairly regularly, and often you get to spend better quality time with them even if it's not as often.

It can also be a bit confronting to see some of the advanced medical issues that we don't usually see in Australia anymore, but this just drives the passion to increase our rural medical workforce and to close the gap.

### **What advice do you have for students considering a healthcare career?**

Always follow your passion, but don't get too bogged down in choosing a particular job too early. I'd definitely recommend a rural career in healthcare as there are so many possibilities. I think there will be more and more opportunities in the years to come as the workforce shortage issues continue to be addressed.

**James graduates  
from high school**



**Begins MBBS degree**



**In third year (first clinical  
year) placed in Bendigo**



**Applies for the Extended  
Rural Cohort (ERC),  
which guarantees entry  
within MBBS at Monash  
University, provided you  
pass the WMAT  
and Multiple Mini  
interview process**



**WILDFIRE**

**Joins Wildfire – Monash  
University's Rural and  
Indigenous Health Club.  
Connects with other  
rural-minded students**

Fourth year placements  
in Mildura and Swan Hill



Begins final year of MBBS  
degree – undertakes  
rotations in Box Hill,  
Bendigo and Mildura



Graduated from MBBS  
at the end of 2018



Receives a RWAV grant  
to help cover some of the  
extra costs when having  
a rural placement



Undertook a six-week  
elective in Philippines

# JAMES O'SULLIVAN PATHWAY TO MBBS



# Q&A WITH PODIATRIST DR SARAH FLYNN

**Coming from a rural background, Dr Flynn admits she didn't know what she wanted to do when she left high school. Her advice: getting started in healthcare is the key and from there, the possibilities are endless.**

## **What did you study?**

I finished high school not knowing what I wanted to study. I was good at sport so I went to Australian Catholic University in Melbourne and studied Bachelor of Exercise Science. This degree didn't provide a clinical skill to guarantee work on graduation so most students did further study. I went to La Trobe University to complete a Masters in Podiatric Practice. It was during my podiatry placements, especially in the Kimberley in Western Australia, that I knew I wanted to become a doctor. I studied Doctor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame, in Sydney.

## **What was the university application process like?**

It is really hard to know what to do when you leave school. Getting into any course, especially one that gives you a skill to work upon graduating is ideal, but not always possible. Applying to university from high school is easy using the VTAC system. Once you are in a course it is easier to transfer to other courses or do postgraduate study. Most medical schools in Australia are postgraduate entry. This requires you to have completed a university degree and pass the GAMSAT exam. Currently each medical school needs to take a certain percentage of regional/rural/remote students each year. This makes the application process less competitive if you are from one of these backgrounds.





### How did your program prepare you for a career in the rural workforce?

During my podiatry degree I spent two months travelling the Kimberley, treating the feet of Indigenous Australians in remote communities. I felt very prepared to work in either a rural or metropolitan area after I graduated. This degree also enabled me to work and make good money while studying medicine. There are always numerous podiatry jobs all over Australia, which helps when moving around.

Medical school was fantastic. There were numerous rural placement opportunities. I went to Parks in New South Wales (NSW) and Lithgow, also in NSW, a remote community in the Philippines, and spent an entire year in Ballarat, Victoria. I felt very prepared to be an intern in a rural or metropolitan area.

### Why did you choose to work in rural healthcare?

I grew up in Ballarat and was keen to work there once I graduated. I feel very comfortable surrounded by family and friends and it is a privilege to assist patients from my own community.

Working in a regional setting can have less travel time, less traffic, financial benefits, a wider variety of clinical cases and more hands-on experience.

### What do you love about your job?

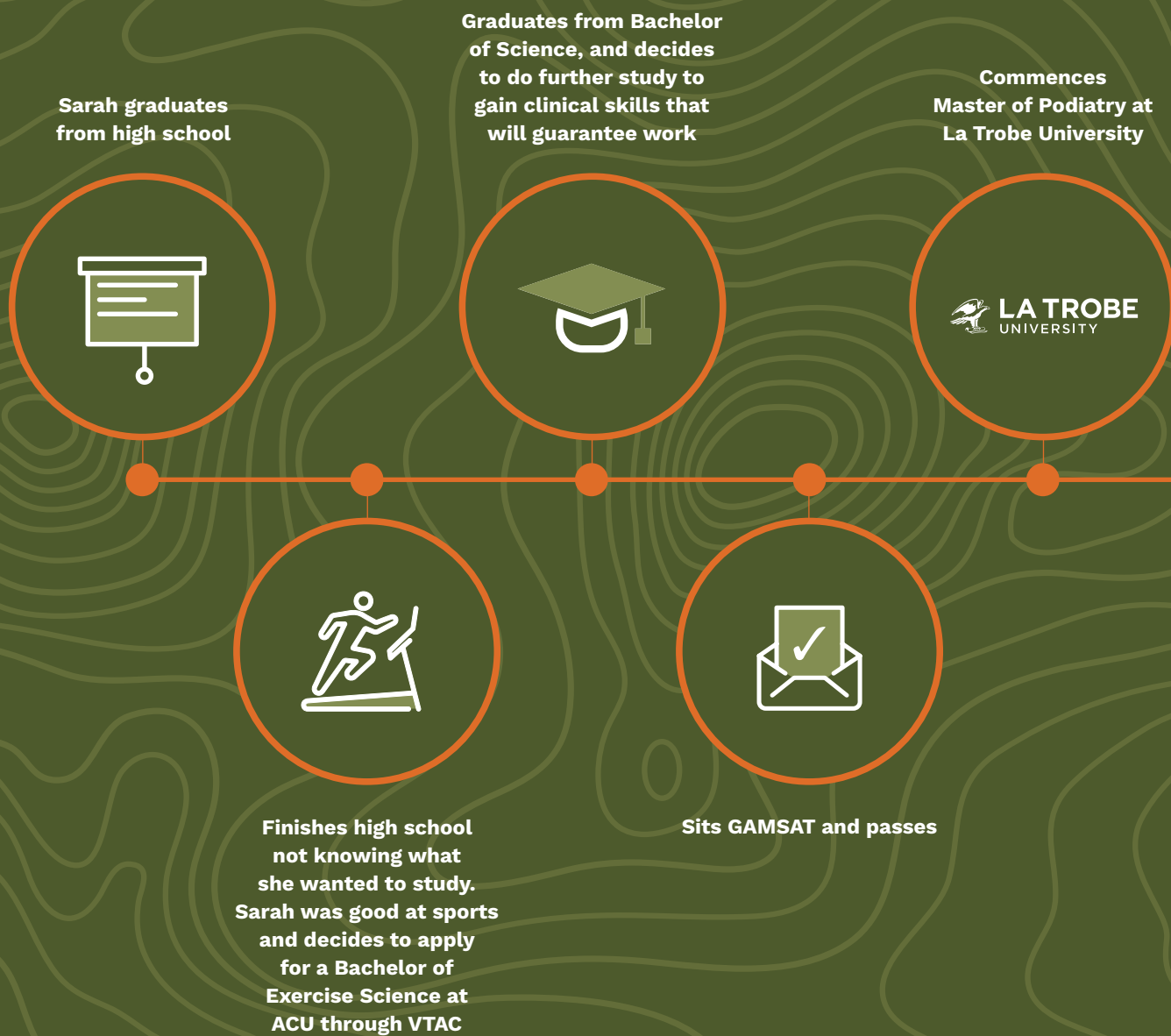
I love walking to work, being surrounded by familiar faces and having a community network in the hospital. I love having lots of time scrubbed in theatre and outpatient clinics. I love working with people who are like-minded and want to spend time together outside of work.

### What challenges have working in rural healthcare offered, and how have you overcome them?

There are limited specialty training programs offered in rural areas. This makes it difficult to choose a specialty, as many of them require training in metropolitan areas.

### What advice do you have for students considering a healthcare career?

Start a health course at university and do not worry if it is not the correct one. You will have a greater understanding of what each healthcare career involves once you start. It is very hard to picture this when you are in high school. Enjoy yourself and change courses if you need. Aim for high grades as this opens more opportunities, for example, going on exchange, scholarships and postgraduate study. Do as many placements as you can, even if you have to create your own. They are often the best.





Sarah completes placements in New South Wales, a remote community in the Philippines, and spends a year in Ballarat



Graduates from La Trobe University



Begins working at Ballarat Health Service at the start of 2018



Travels to the Kimberley (WA) for two months treating Indigenous communities living in remote areas



Graduates from Doctor of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney

# SARAH FLYNN PATHWAY TO PODIATRY

# Q&A WITH NURSE KATIE SHAW

**For Katie, juggling the demands of family and school wasn't easy. Her story reflects the fact that for many, career paths are not straightforward. Fortunately, Katie has been able to benefit from her experience, land in a supportive rural work environment and continue to upskill and provide the most up-to-date care to her patients.**

## **What did you study?**

I started a nursing career by completing a Diploma of Nursing. On completion, I enrolled to study my Bachelor of Nursing degree, graduating in 2017. Since graduating, I have studied several short courses related to my area of nursing (rural general practice) that have qualified me to perform ear syringing, cervical screening, immunisation, plastering. I am nearing completion of an Implanon insertion/removal course.

## **What was the university application process like?**

The road to university was quite long for me! I had twins when I was 16 (Year 11), so while I continued to study and went on to complete Year 12 VCE, I didn't complete my VCE exams, meaning I did not receive an ATAR for university. After doing some research I noticed at Charles Darwin if you have completed a diploma you get automatic entry into their bachelor degrees. I decided to complete a double Diploma of Business and Management with the hopes it would get me into a Bachelor of Nursing. Along the way I decided that nursing was something I'd rather do face-to-face, so while completing my double diploma. I enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing. On completion, I then successfully gained entry into the Bachelor of Nursing with a year's worth of credit.



**How did your program prepare you for a career in the rural workforce?**

My Diploma of Nursing prepared me to work within a rural clinic, and I worked in such a clinic while completing my bachelors. While it was great, I found completing my bachelors gave me far more in-depth knowledge and confidence when dealing with more acute presentations. Completing my bachelors also opened the door for me to complete further study that endorsed enrolled nurses (EENs) do not have access to – for example, cervical screening and the immuniser courses.

**Are there any networks that supported you in your rural healthcare journey?**

RWAV was a fantastic support throughout my rural health journey. The staff at RWAV were incredibly supportive and knowledgeable. I was a recipient of a rural placement grant as well as a grant for further education/training, both of which proved helpful financially.

**What do you enjoy the most about living in a rural community?**

The thing I enjoy most about living in a rural community is that everyone knows everyone, waiting rooms are like social gatherings. Patients are always so happy to see you and you have the privilege of becoming a part of their family, especially with patients who have chronic conditions; you get to know their dog's name and you're always in the loop with their neighbour's business! It's nice to have a smiling face when you're walking around the supermarket and the gratitude that is expressed is far greater than that of metro settings.

**What challenges has working in rural healthcare offered, and how did you overcome them?**

The biggest challenge I have faced working in rural healthcare is the limited access to major facilities, with hospitals and healthcare facilities such as X-rays being half an hour or more away. This can throw a spanner in the works of your day. However, it is almost a blessing in disguise as you become far more competent and confident in your assessment and management of acute presentations.

**What advice do you have for students considering a healthcare career?**

I would say go for it! There are so many avenues in healthcare – take nursing as an example, you can work in a rural or metro setting in a variety of disciplines: mental health, community health, acute facilities such as hospitals and fly in fly out rural and remote nursing. With the changing scope of practice nurses, nurses are furthering their careers and becoming consultants in areas that they specialise. There are also other avenues, such as rural isolated practice nurse (RIPN) roles, and nurse practitioners are becoming far more in demand. There is always a job, someone, somewhere always needs a nurse!





While studying her diploma, Katie decides to also enroll in a Diploma of Nursing (18 months).

Katie completes the diplomas and successfully gains entry to Bachelor of Nursing at Deakin University with credit from diplomas (two and a half years to complete)

Received a Rural Clinical Placement Grant through RWAV in her third university while on placement in Colac

Katie starts working as a practice nurse in Torquay



**DEAKIN**  
UNIVERSITY



Works in a clinic throughout duration of her Bachelors.

Completes rural placements in Ballarat, Warrnambool and Colac, as well as a number of placements in metro areas



Completes Bachelor of Nursing, which opens the doors for Katie to continue further studies that EENs don't have access to, like cervical screening and nurse immuniser courses

# KATIE SHAW PATHWAY TO NURSING

An aerial photograph of a coastline at sunset. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue. The ocean is a deep blue, and a dark, forested peninsula or island is visible in the foreground. The text "PATHWAYS AND POSSIBILITIES" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "PATHWAYS AND" is in white, and "POSSIBILITIES" is in orange.

# PATHWAYS AND POSSIBILITIES

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# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH WORKFORCE

**The Aboriginal health workforce is growing with confident and capable professionals working across all disciplines of the health system in both clinical and non-clinical settings.**

The Victorian Government is taking steps to ensure Aboriginal people have access to a range of career development opportunities in health providing culturally responsive service delivery that meets the needs of the Aboriginal community.

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are working across a broad range of health professions in professional and clinical roles including:

- + medicine
- + nursing
- + allied health
- + primary health
- + health promotion
- + management
- + leadership roles.

For more information visit:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth)







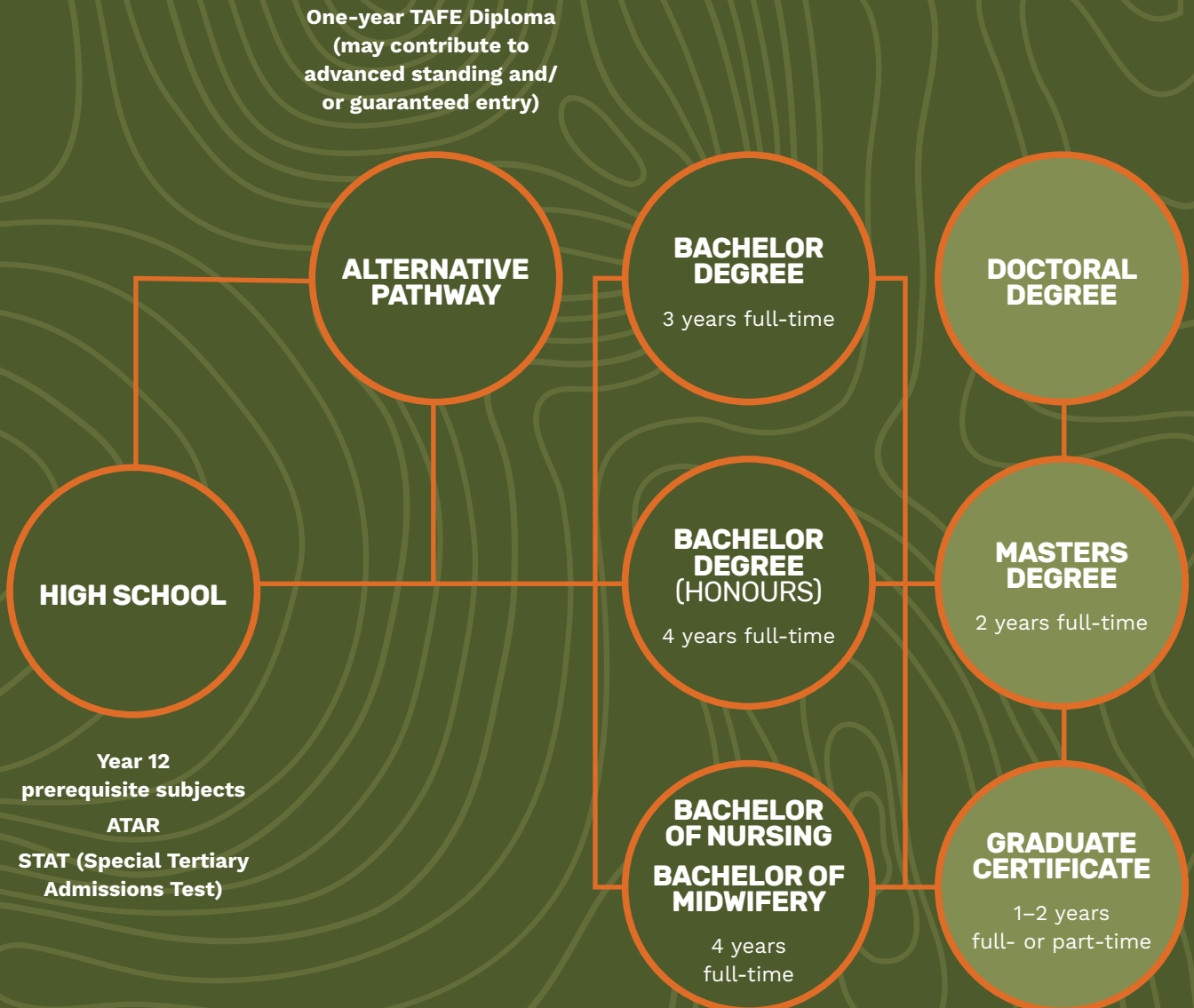


# POSSIBLE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH WORKER PATHWAY

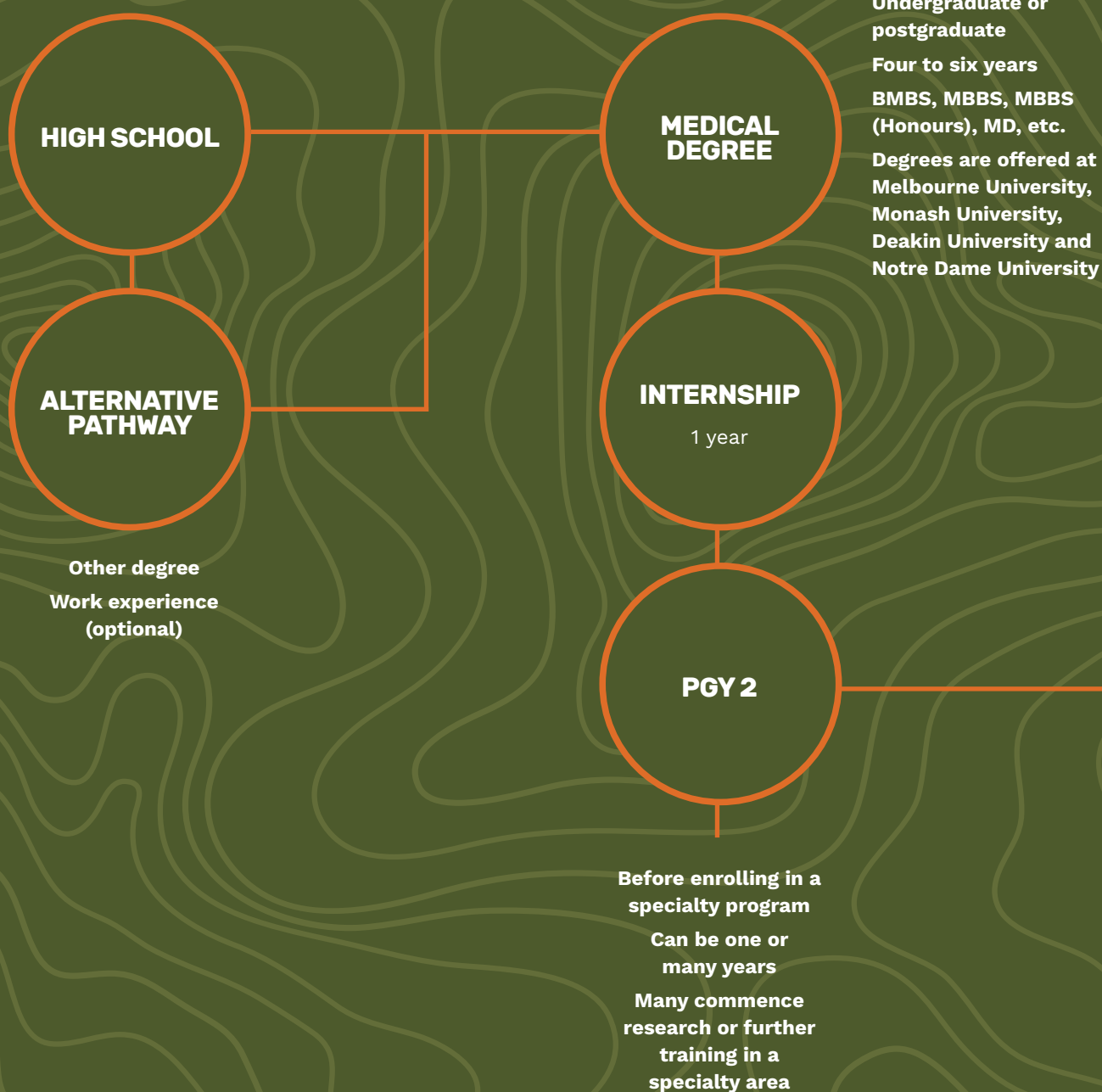






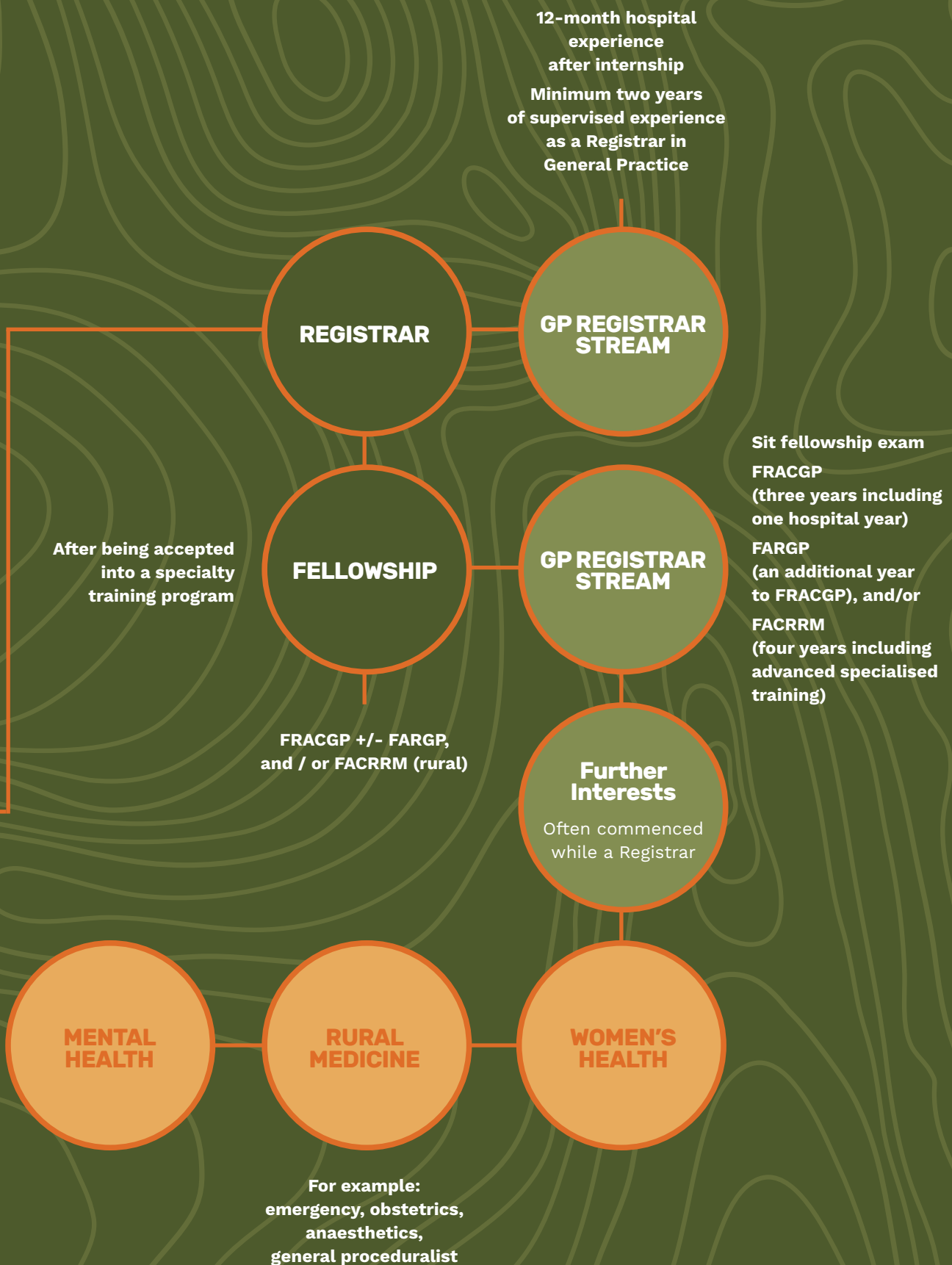


# POSSIBLE NURSING OR ALLIED HEALTH PATHWAY



# POSSIBLE GP CAREER PATHWAY







# **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

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## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC)

VTAC provides an extensive list of scholarships available for students to assist with the costs of higher education.

Check out their website for up-to-date information:

[www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships)

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study pharmacy at university. Three full-time scholarships are available annually.

### CRANaplus Undergraduate Remote Placement Scholarships

These scholarships offer financial assistance to support undergraduate students who are interested in working remotely, giving them the opportunity to experience a remote health setting firsthand. These scholarships provide financial assistance of up to \$1000 per applicant, per remote placement and also covers associated fares, accommodation and other incidental costs.

### Give them Wings

Scholarships are awarded to eligible first-year nursing and allied health students from Victorian regional and rural communities. The scholarship includes financial support and a Royal Flying Doctor experience.

[www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/givethemwings](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/vic/givethemwings)

### Indigenous Health Scholarships

Provided with support from the Australian Rotary Health, Rotary clubs and state, territory and Commonwealth government funding. The scholarships are provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from a wide range of health

related professions. Each scholarship is worth \$5,000 per year.

[australianrotaryhealth.org.au/Programs/Indigenous-Health-Scholarships](http://australianrotaryhealth.org.au/Programs/Indigenous-Health-Scholarships)

### Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship

The Indigenous Peoples' Medical Scholarship is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are currently studying medicine. Applicants must be enrolled in an Australian medical school at the time of application and the scholarship commences no earlier than the second year of the recipient's medical degree.

### John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP)

Provides medical students with the opportunity to experience clinical practice and lifestyle in rural and remote locations. Spending two weeks a year over a four-year period with a one-to-one professional mentor, community host and contact.

[www.jfpp.com.au](http://www.jfpp.com.au)

### General Practice Students Network

Offers a variety of database links to organisations that offer scholarships to help pay for textbooks, unique placement opportunities and tuition.

[www.gpsn.org.au/scholarships/](http://www.gpsn.org.au/scholarships/)

### Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation

Open to rural Victorian VCE students who plan to attend university after completing Year 12. The scholarship consists of financial support, mentoring and leadership development. Financial support is valued at \$45,000 (\$15,000 per annum for three years).

[www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/what-we-do/scholarships/](http://www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/what-we-do/scholarships/)

### President's Prize

The President's Prize provides any medical student (Australian or New Zealand citizen) studying in Australia the opportunity to win a

one- to two-week placement with a doctor, practice or health service in a rural or remote area of Australia. Accommodation, travel and incidental expenses are covered up to the total value of \$2,500.

### Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (PHMSS) Indigenous Health Scholarship

PHMSS is an Australian Government initiative targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students undertaking studies in health-related disciplines. Courses include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health work, allied health, dentistry/oral health, medicine, midwifery or nursing. Valued up to \$15,000 per year for full-time students and up to \$7,500 per year for part-time recipients.

[www.acn.edu.au/scholarships/indigenous-health-scholarships](http://www.acn.edu.au/scholarships/indigenous-health-scholarships)

### Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme

This scheme provides financial support in order to encourage students from rural and remote communities to embark on undergraduate or graduate studies in pharmacy.

Valued at \$10,000 per year per student.

The scholarship is supplemented by the Rural Pharmacy Scholarship Mentor Scheme, which aims to reinforce the scholar's ties to rural and regional Australia and provide support to scholars outside of the university and formal study environment.

### Sir Samuel Wadham Rural Students Scholarship (University of Melbourne)

This scholarship provides an annual allowance of \$5,000 paid in two half-yearly instalments for the full-time duration of the course. This is available for students experiencing financial hardship who have relocated from a rural area to study at the University of Melbourne.



## POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### Graduate Women Victoria

Graduate Women Victoria offers an annual program of scholarships and bursaries for female students enrolled in universities in Victoria. There are four categories: Indigenous undergraduates, education (masters degree), masters coursework and masters extended students and research (masters and doctoral degrees).

### Rural and Regional Health Australia

The Australian Government provides funding for programs and initiatives that target university departments of rural health, medical students, trainee specialists, practising rural doctors and doctors who trained outside Australia.

### The George Alexander Foundation/ Australian Catholic University

This scholarship targets students from regional and rural areas who need to move away from home in order to study. Five scholarships are offered each year valued at \$15,000 (over three years) and 10 bursaries valued at \$2,500 each.

## NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

### ADA Study Grant Information

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) provides study grants for undergraduate and graduate dental students, including:

- + ADA Study Grant for Indigenous Dental Students (five grants, \$5,000 each)
- + ADA Study Grants for Rural and Remote Dental Students (seven grants, \$5,000 each)
- + ADA Graduate Student Scholarships (\$4,000 per dental school)

[www.ada.org.au/dental-professionals/philanthropy/grants/grants-rural-remote-dental-students](http://www.ada.org.au/dental-professionals/philanthropy/grants/grants-rural-remote-dental-students)

### Australia College of Nursing

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) administers multiple scholarships for nursing and midwifery undergraduates and postgraduates.

### Pearson Student of the Year Awards

These awards recognise those students who have demonstrated outstanding effort, dedication and academic achievement in their chosen field of study. Pearson will present an award of \$1,000 to one student from seven fields of study, one of which is nursing and allied health.

### Rural Allied Health Support Programs

By encouraging and supporting rural allied health practitioners to undertake postgraduate study, it is anticipated that the quality and retention of qualified practitioners working in rural Victoria will be improved. The financial support provided to practitioners through the scholarship program will assist them in meeting the additional expenses often borne by rural practitioners accessing education. Payments vary depending on the level of postgraduate studies.

[www.rwav.com.au/professional-development/grants/](http://www.rwav.com.au/professional-development/grants/)

### Health Workforce Scholarship Program

The HWSP provides professional development support to health professionals in rural, regional and remote Australia. The program will be available to eligible health professionals working in primary healthcare.

[www.rwav.com.au/professional-development/grants/](http://www.rwav.com.au/professional-development/grants/)

# SALARY STATISTICS

## MEDICINE

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## NURSING

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## OPTOMETRY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## PHARMACY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## PSYCHOLOGY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



## LEGEND

**Job openings (5 years to November 2019)\***



**Median weekly earnings before tax and based on full time workers\***



\* Australian Jobs 2018, Australian Government, Department of Employment [www.employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication](http://www.employment.gov.au/australian-jobs-publication) then click on Occupation Matrix.

### PHYSIOTHERAPY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



### SOCIAL WORK

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



### SPEECH THERAPY

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



### HEALTH DIAGNOSTICS

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



### DENTAL HYGEINISTS, TECHNICIANS, THERAPISTS

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



### DIETETICS

Job openings



Median weekly earnings



# RURAL HEALTH CLUBS IN VICTORIA

Joining a rural health student club is a great way to meet other like-minded students, build networks and learn more about the industry.

There are 28 university clubs across Australia with over 9000 members. The clubs make up the National Rural Health Student Network and when you join a club you automatically become part of the network.

Members are passionate advocates for raising awareness of the health needs and improving the health outcomes for rural and remote communities.

Clubs welcome members across all health fields and organise many activities throughout the year including:

- + social events
- + clinical skills weekends
- + information sessions
- + rural experiences.

For more information check out the National Rural Health Student Network:

[www.nrhsn.org.au](http://www.nrhsn.org.au)

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## MONASH UNIVERSITY



 [wildfire@nrhsn.org.au](mailto:wildfire@nrhsn.org.au)

 [facebook.com/WildfireRHC](https://facebook.com/WildfireRHC)

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## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



 [facebook.com/OutlookRHC](https://facebook.com/OutlookRHC)

 [twitter.com/OutlookRHC](https://twitter.com/OutlookRHC)

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## DEAKIN UNIVERSITY



 [secretary.nomad@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nomad@gmail.com)

 [facebook.com/DeakinRuralHealth](https://facebook.com/DeakinRuralHealth)

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## LATROBE UNIVERSITY



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