

A MANY PRONGED APPROACH



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With the focus in this edition on recruitment and retention, and as we approach our fifth year of operation, it's a moment to highlight the role of the Riverina Regional Training Hub (RRTH), part of the University of Notre Dame Australia Rural Clinical School. Early in the RRTH's development we collaborated with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District to successfully seek commonwealth government funding for two new specialist training pathways – one in Emergency Medicine, the other in Anaesthetics. These two training pathways differed from most of those existing in the region at the time, as they were anchored at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, not in a metropolitan hospital. The ongoing funding of these posts continues to support local trainee doctors. Around Australia one hundred rurally/regionally new training posts were created using a similar model. Such a strategy was developed in many sites and it was great to be one of the early starters...providing clear locally-anchored training. In many ways this flipping of the training model to basing specialist training in regional hospitals, enhanced the rethink

about recruitment and retention of non-GP specialist trainees and is contributing to providing clearer pathways to training within the region. Now well into 2022, we are working with medical students and trainee doctors, their supervisors and mentors, to further recruit or keep as many as possible training regionally and remaining or returning to regional practice. This is a many-pronged approach. In Griffith there is a new group of trainee doctors and a pilot program to build the ultrasound skills of them and their Griffith based colleagues. The online program will be led by the recently appointed Director of Prevocational Training for Griffith Base Hospital, Dr Tony Floyd. If this pilot program is successful, it will be another educational feature that may attract trainee doctors to spend time there. The Temora team are warmly welcoming us for this year's Rural Generalist Showcase and Workshop at the end of May. This event is aimed at fostering and sustaining the interest of medical students and trainee doctors based in the region in rural general practice and will be powered by two locally trained young doctors Marty Ryan and Grant Elliott. The weekend will include both educational and networking opportunities.

Back in the big smoke of Wagga Wagga the RRTH has played a small part in welcoming our new intake of junior doctors. Useful resources were shared with them that can enrich their own training journeys.



Medical career podcasts from medical students on getting into medicine, from doctors in training and doctors established in regional and rural careers. <https://www.destinationmedicine.com.au/>



Information about careers, career planning, community of practice, rural conferences and scholarships and support https://www.notredame.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/281013/JMO-Almanac-RRTH-2022-20-Jan-2022.pdf

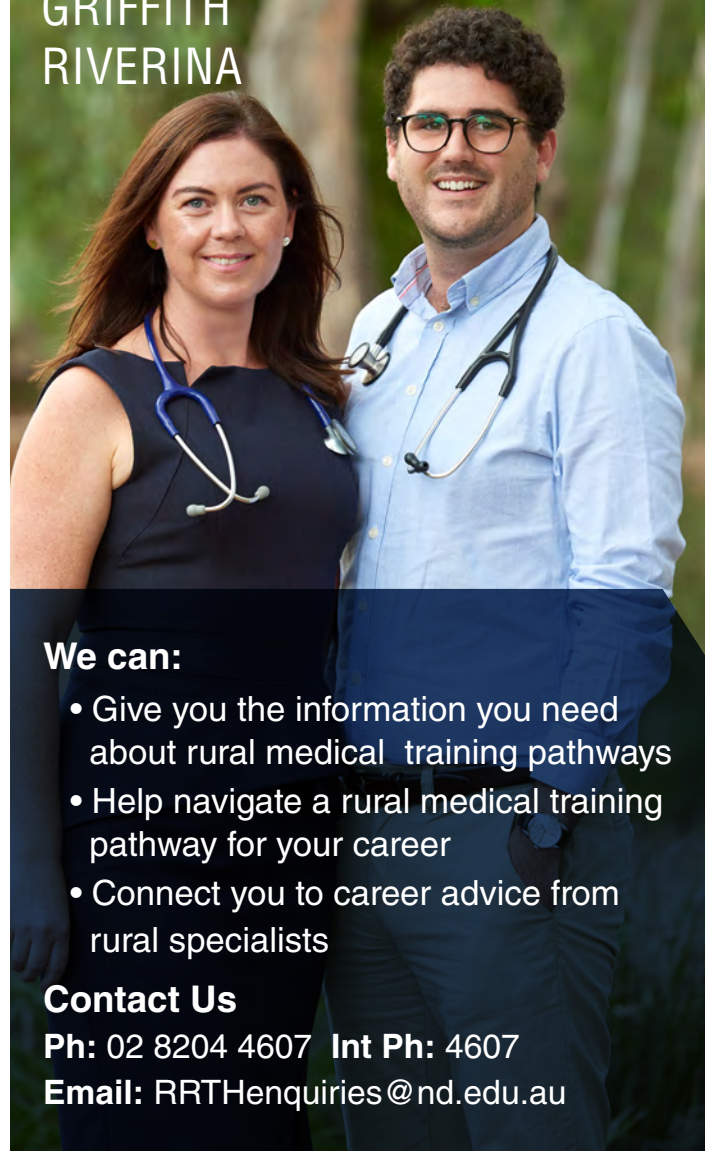


A website to find what non-GP Specialties can be trained in regionally/rurally and where this training can be undertaken (allows search by interest or location) <https://regionalmedicaltraining.com.au>

An Australian Government Initiative

Rural Pathways to Post-Graduate Medical Training

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We can:

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PHOTOS ABOVE:

The University of Wollongong medical students completing their final year in Griffith. Look out for them as they complete electives around our region which the RRTH supports them to find. Connecting and supporting these groups is all part of the multi-pronged approach to encouraging rural study, training and careers in medicine.

BELOW: Some of the newly arrived Griffith junior doctors enjoying trivia and placing second! A chance also to chat about rural and regional careers.

