

9/05/2016

### Health students head to Harvey

Twenty final year medical, nursing and allied health students will get a taste of rural practice in Harvey from 13-15 May 2016.

The three-day Go Rural weekend is part of a national program funded by the Department of Health through Rural Health Workforce Australia. The initiative exposes health students and professionals to living and working in a country town to encourage them to consider a career in a rural location.

Rural Health West administers the Go Rural initiative in Western Australia.

Rural Health West General Manager for Workforce, Kelli Porter said Go Rural is an excellent opportunity to showcase the benefits of rural medicine and health to students as they plan their career.

“We know that students who have grown up in the country are more likely to return to the country when they graduate. However, young people who have spent their lives in the city can sometimes find the country a daunting option.

“The Go Rural weekend gives students the chance to see what rural practice is like, highlighting the many benefits and challenges of a rural career.

“Many students look forward to being a part of a close-knit community with a range of outdoor activities on their doorstep.

“Others are intrigued by the prospect of having a broad scope of practice as country practitioners often deal with a much broader range of illnesses and injuries than their metropolitan counterparts,” she said.

This year, students involved in Go Rural will be staying at Camp Mornington in Harvey. Over the weekend, they will visit Harvey Hospital and network with local health professionals.

Skills sessions will be held with the students, including suturing and multidisciplinary care workshops. The students will test their teamwork and communication skills with abseiling activities and a high ropes course.

“Go Rural is a great opportunity to provide final year medical, nursing and allied health students with exposure to country life and encourage them to consider a career in regional rural or remote Western Australia,” said Kelli.

**ENDS**

## **PHOTO, FILM AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Media are invited to attend various activities over the weekend for photo, filming and interview opportunities.

Footage and photo opportunities include:

- Students visiting Harvey Hospital
- Students abseiling at Camp Mornington
- Suturing workshop
- Students completing high ropes course at Camp Mornington
- Networking dinner

If you are interested in attending, please contact  
Kerida Hodge, Manager Marketing and Communications on 6389 4500 or  
[Kerida.Hodge@ruralhw.com.au](mailto:Kerida.Hodge@ruralhw.com.au)

*As the leading rural health workforce agency for Western Australia, Rural Health West is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments responsible for the recruitment and retention of a highly skilled sustainable health workforce to meet the needs to rural and remote Western Australian communities.*