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## Health students heap praise on Harvey weekend



A recent taste of working in the rural health sector has been warmly received by a group of final year university students considering a career in rural Western Australia.

Seventeen final year medical, nursing and allied health students headed to Camp Mornington in Harvey from 13 to 15 May 2016 as part of the national Go Rural initiative, which exposes students and professionals to the benefits of living and working in a rural location.

The focus of the weekend was the importance of multidisciplinary health care in rural areas, with participants appreciating the chance to spend time with students from other disciplines.

Students participated in a range of activities over the course of three days, noting their highlights as the suturing session with experienced general practitioner Dr Michael Butcher, a laughter yoga session, networking with local rural health professionals, abseiling and a high ropes course.

Final year speech pathology student Abigail said "It was an amazing experience and a privilege to be part of it. I learnt invaluable skills and knowledge from the activities and interactions I had from other students."

Student nurse Celeste said "I would highly recommend this camp. It was exceptionally well run and I hope it will continue in years to come."

The three-day Go Rural weekend is part of a national program funded by the Department of Health through Rural Health Workforce Australia. 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 healthcare 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 city and country-raised students the chance to see what rural practice is like, highlighting the many benefits and challenges of a rural career,” said Kelli.

## ENDS



*Photos from left to right, top to bottom:*

- Visit to Harvey Hospital, where students were made aware of the difference between small rural hospitals and large metropolitan hospitals
- Laughter workshop with advanced laughter yoga facilitator, Rosemarie Williams
- Suturing session with Dr Michael Butcher
- High-ropes course at Camp Mornington; just one of the activities designed to challenge the students and to create opportunities for team work and collaboration
- The students in Harvey town centre
- Participating in a Pilates class led by their fellow students.

For further information:

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*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.*