

**Media release  
26 June 2024**

## **National bursary to give 7 junior doctors a Rural Medicine experience**

Junior doctors across Australia are being urged to apply for an important national bursary that enables them to experience Rural Medicine and the great career path it can offer.

The **MDA National and RDAA #DestinationRural Bursary** is provided to seven junior doctors annually, with each receiving \$1500 to undertake a clinical placement in a rural or remote community, attend a rural health conference, or attend a skills workshop in a rural town.

Applications are currently open for this year's Bursary, with successful applicants having twelve months to use the Bursary once it has been awarded to them.

**Applications for the first round of offers close soon – on 30 June.**

**"It is often said in Rural Medicine that you can't be what you can't see" Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) President, Dr RT Lewandowski, said.**

"These annual bursaries are critical in providing junior doctors with an immersive Rural Medicine experience, whether that be through attending a rural health conference or undertaking a rural clinical placement.

"They provide the recipients with a great insight into just how rewarding a career in Rural Medicine can be...and what a supportive bunch of colleagues rural health professionals can be too!

"We often find that once a junior doctor has experienced life as a rural doctor, they are loathe to return to the city – there is something about Rural Medicine that is truly special.

"The variety of the work is enormous, your community welcomes you with open arms, you are part of a highly supportive healthcare team, and you are often living and working in really stunning areas of Australia.

"We are immensely grateful to MDA National for their long-term generous support of RDAA and, through us, rural doctors and rural communities across Australia.

"The **MDA National and RDAA #DestinationRural Bursary** is just one of many ways in which MDA National continues to show its strong commitment to RDAA and the rural medical profession."

**MDA National President, Dr Michael Gannon (pictured), said:** "In building the rural medical workforce, it is incredibly important that we provide as many opportunities as possible for junior doctors to spend time undertaking a clinical placement or skills training in a rural location, or even simply attending a rural health conference where they can talk with rural health professionals from across Australia.



“It is not uncommon for a junior doctor who has spent little, if any, time in rural Australia to come back from a rural placement wondering why they didn’t sample rural practice sooner – as they enjoyed it so much. Some are instant converts to Rural Medicine and go on to have a rewarding career as a rural doctor.

“MDA National is very pleased to be able to support this important Bursary, and hopefully help build the future rural medical workforce.”

---

**Find more information about the Bursary and apply:**

[www.rdaa.com.au](http://www.rdaa.com.au) (go to About and then Bursaries)

**Find more information about MDA National:**

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

**Photo:** [Dr RT Lewandowski](#)

**Photo:** [Dr Michael Gannon with Dr Catherine Nortje \(a 2022 Bursary recipient\)](#)

**Available for interview:**

RDAA President, Dr RT Lewandowski

RDAA CEO, Ms Peta Rutherford

**Media contacts:**

Patrick Daley on 0408 004 890

Ineke Kuiper on 0408 669 638