

Student report

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Attending the 12th National Rural Health Conference in Adelaide during April was one of the most remarkably inspiring and eye-opening experience of my medical career. The people I met at the conference were some of the most motivated and inspiring people I've ever met, this applied especially for the students. The opening plenary session was outstanding with both the inspirational tutti choir and the intriguing accounts from some members of parliament. Listening to Andrew Laming was exciting, I appreciated listening to him due to his vast understanding of the health field associated with his firsthand experience.

The following days' plenary sessions were fantastic, but the highlight was the Tuesday afternoon plenary session for which the topic was "*The People of a Bright Rural Future*". The four speakers: Michael Bishop, Robyn Brogan, Dougie Herd, and Alison Fairleigh, were not only great speakers but brought to light some of the magnificent resilience that is so important in rural health. The choice of MC for the conference was a great one: Leigh Radford managed to bring together what looked to be a chaotic program into an amazing few days.

The concurrent sessions were fantastic. It became a dilemma making decisions on which sessions to attend due to the many interesting topics. These sessions opened my eyes to some of the various issues facing rural medicine currently. I found the topics on rural resilience especially helpful. The wider scope of the topics showed me that rural health will be tough and will definitely take some determination to make a difference. I was most interested in the plans for rural training pathways for medical professionals. I was fortunate enough to speak to Dan Manahan and Tarun Sen Gupta who run the Rural Generalist Pathway in Queensland, and are great contacts to have in regards to future rural employment options.

The overall atmosphere of the conference was amazing. Seeing such a large congregation of motivated people from a variety of different backgrounds and disciplines all together in the same place has inspired me toward not only wanting to train, work and live in rural area but also to work hard toward improving rural health and getting involved. Seeing my peers—other students—presenting their papers has definitely been cause of my own desire to get involved in the research and projects involved in rural health. I hope to get involved in these fields and hopefully be presenting my own project at the next NRHC or another rural conference.

I cannot emphasise enough how incredibly inspiring not only the presenters but also the delegates of the conference were. The students I met were remarkable and I look forward to seeing them in the future whether at future conferences, or working with them. The multidisciplinary emphasis of the conference brought great insight into the various aspects of rural health issues. This is the first big opportunity to get an opportunity to meet people from other areas of medicine who are enthusiastic about the future of rural health.

This conference has definitely opened my eyes to the vast variety of different problems and workings involved in rural health. An aspect of the conference which I thought was inspired was the "*Sharing Shed*" which saw a live voting system on recommendations for future development in rural health issues. I thought this a great way to see which issues the rural public thought were most recommended, I feel this will give a better idea to those who carry influence in being able to pursue and push towards solving them.

This conference was a fantastic few days and I must thank RAMUS for helping me to attend it. I have come out feeling all the more inspired towards working in rural areas and feel inspired to look at research opportunities for the future. I met a number of people who I look forward to seeing at future rural health conferences and I saw a few people whom I met at the Rural Medicine Australia conference

last year. I look forward to establishing a network with these fantastic people and learning all I can in the hopes of living up to the amazing standard of rural health leaders who have preceded us.

It was great to meet some of the Rural Health Alliance team especially those involved in RAMUS—it's great to be able to put a face to a name. I have to give kudos to the Rural Health Alliance for putting together such an amazing conference. It truly was spectacular and I cannot wait to attend the next National Rural Health Conference in Darwin in 2015.