

Student report

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This conference was easily the best that I have attended. It's highly evident that a huge amount of planning and commitment was dedicated to making all of this go off without a hitch by the convenors. NRHC12 offered equal parts education, networking, fun and entertainment opportunity. The theme of this conference was 'strong commitment, bright future', and truly, the future is looking bright.

The National Rural Health Alliance assumes the approach of distilling the knowledge, wisdom, and opinions of all conference attendees, with the eventual product of this being a droplet of highly concentrated recommendations to move forward with and propose to policy makers. This approach makes for a highly inclusive, jubilant, and optimistic conference process.

Mick Reid's presentations, firstly on recent policy directions and future requirements, and secondly on the role of interstate collaboration in optimising healthcare, were of a very high quality and impact. I particularly appreciate his candid and pragmatic appraisal of the skills required to be an effective leader in this current political and health environment. Finally, although they were very technical sessions, the series of presentations on the current and future evolving roles of Medicare Locals was certainly very beneficial (and popular, with standing room only).

Although an action that I thought impossible, this conference has further solidified my interest in practicing in a remote area in the future. The sheer interest, optimism and enthusiasm that is to be found amongst almost all leaders within the rural health sphere is truly contagious. I feel increasingly confident that rural health practitioners will continue to have research and support provided to augment their practice.

Ultimately, this conference was an absolutely amazing opportunity, and I got a huge amount out of it. I hope to use these gains to continue to develop and support TROHPIQ as a rural health club and Australia's rural health more generally.