



# Outback Intern Pharmacist Training Program

- a future in Rural and Remote  
Practice

Presented by:

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# Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health

- Pharmacy Intern Program
- Supporting a stronger rural pharmacy workforce.
- 4 Year Undergraduate degree + 1 year "Intern Pharmacist Year"
- Supervised practice year, encompassing assignments, a written examination and an oral examination.



# Pharmacy Intern Recruitment

- 3 Main Barriers
  - High cost of accommodation
  - Social and professional isolation
  - Lack of professional support



# Subsidised Accommodation

- Average Intern Wage - \$737.00 per week
- Average rental of 1 bedroom unit - \$250-\$300 per week.
- 50% of wage to be spent on accommodation.



# Professional and Social Isolation

- Perceived barrier
- Rural pharmacy placements increase students interest in working in rural and remote areas.<sup>1</sup>
- Student placements is the major entry point of pharmacy graduates into the Intern program.
- 60% of Interns in the last 3 years had undertaken a student placement with MICRRH.



# Professional Support

- Major component
- 'Rural Generalist Pharmacist'
- Skills set developed by pharmacists with robust initiative working in remote practice.
- Multidisciplinary approach to health care.



# Intern Education Sessions

- Fortnightly – 2 hour session.
- Academic sessions: examination preparation
- Multidisciplinary sessions: shared learning
- Allied health practitioners: role, patient expectations, case studies, and referral pathways.
- Pharmacy Interns: pharmacy topic relevant to the allied health practice.



# Health Professionals

- Occupational therapists
- Psychologists
- General practitioners
- Nurse practitioners
- Physiotherapists
- Incontinence advisors
- Dementia advisors
- Aboriginal Health Workers



# Results

<b>Year / Location of Intern Year</b>	<b>Year / Location of 1<sup>st</sup> Year Pharmacist</b>	<b>Number of weeks of placement with MICRRH</b>
2013 – Mount Isa	2014 – Mount Isa	Nil
2013 – Mount Isa	2014 – Weipa	4 weeks
2014 – Mount Isa	2015 – Charters Towers	4 weeks
2014 – Mount Isa	2015 – Mount Isa	3 weeks
2014 – Mount Isa	2015 – Mount Isa	Nil
2015 – Mount Isa	2016	
2015 – Weipa	2016	4 weeks
2015 - Karumba	2016	6 weeks



# Affirmations

- "MICRRH's intern program is a well rounded support for intern pharmacists. as it afforded us an opportunity to network with local health professionals and GPs, provided learning experiences unique to rural health care, provided support for examinations and a team of professionals working within the industry to mentor and support in all our learnings. I would definitely recommend it to all budding pharmacists." – Kosar Latiff 2013 Intern Pharmacist

# Summary





# Affirmations

- "Being an intern in Mount Isa would have been incredibly difficult without the support of Selina and the MICRRH Pharmacy Intern Training Program (ITP). The local support was invaluable as an addition to support at my workplace and the external ITP. The fact we were able to meet and converse with other health professionals and develop a greater understanding of how they operate still helps me today and is the unique benefit of this program. I now have a better understanding of a patient's journey through the healthcare system, which allows for greater empathy and appreciation when delivering healthcare as a pharmacist. My success in pre-registration exams also reflects the great work of Selina and I am certainly a better pharmacist for all the sessions throughout." – Christopher Braithwaite 2013 Intern Pharmacist



# References

- 1. Page Amy, Khalil Hanan, Taylor Selina , Kirschbaum Mark (2014) Through the farm gate: pharmacy students intension in pursuing a rural career. Combined Universities Centre of Rural Health, University of Western Australia, University Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania, Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University, University Department of Rural Health, Monash University.