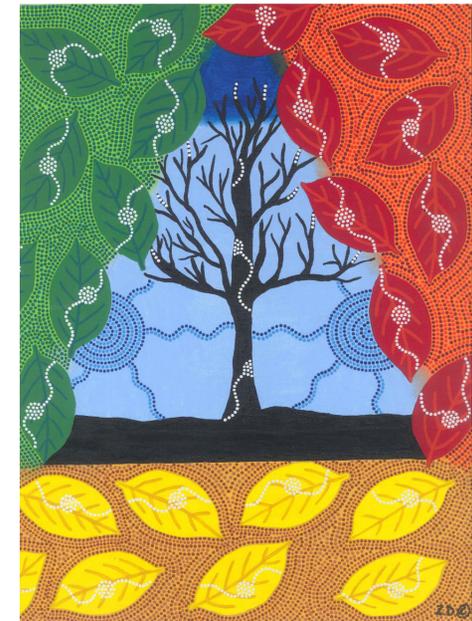


Networking for Greater Health

Urquhart A, Michalski J, Coates M.

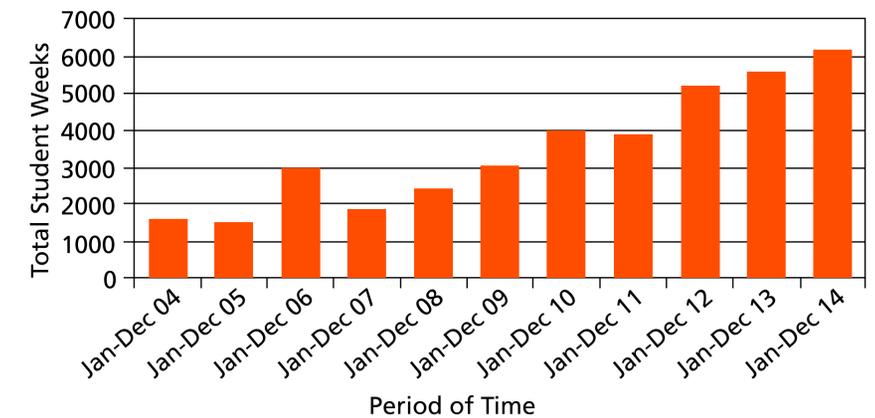
SOUTH AUSTRALIA & VICTORIA

The website also includes information on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness Training program. Free Cultural Awareness Training is offered throughout the year, where students are exposed to ATSI health, historical and cultural issues of the Greater Green Triangle Region. The training offered is discipline specific and designed to provide students with clinical insight into Indigenous health issues. It aims to assist students in developing the skills and knowledge that will assist them as health practitioners to deliver culturally-safe clinical care, and to see that that what they do as individuals can make a difference to the health and well being of indigenous people.



The Silver Lining Tree by Zell Dodd

KPI 1: Total Student Weeks in yearly reporting periods from January 2004 - December 2014



Conclusions

The GGT UDRH has seen a considerable increase in the number of students undertaking placement in the region over the past 10 years. The number of student placement weeks has grown from 1000 in 2005 to more than 5000 in 2013 and 6149 in 2014. We anticipate similar numbers in 2015. This clearly demonstrates the value of the online booking system and of the accommodation that is available in this region.

Background

Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health is part of the Australian Government's UDRH initiative. It is a program that combines major academic institutions, health services, industry groups and communities, to promote 'Greater Health' in the region.

The GGT UDRH has been operating a successful Student Support Program for the past 13 years. The Department aims to improve the experiences of health science students on rural placements with the intention of increasing the likelihood of return to rural practice after graduation.

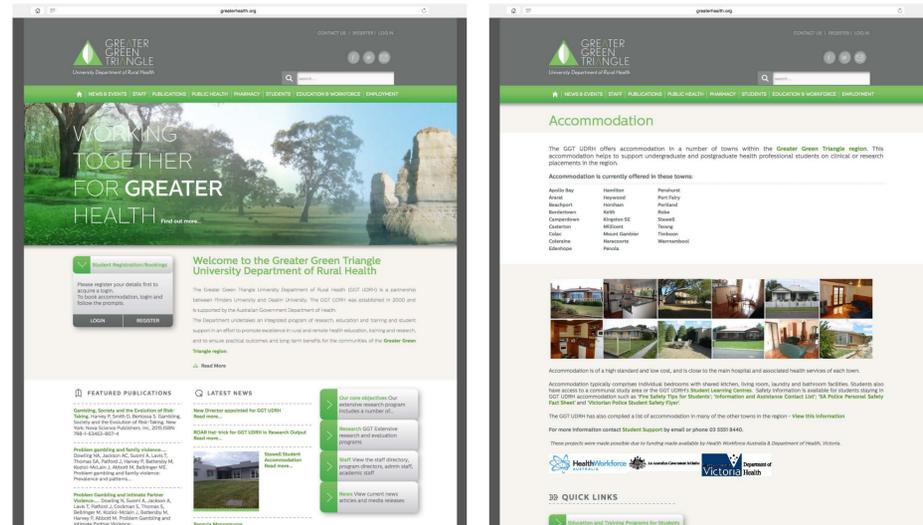
Aims

The aim was to provide easy access to low-cost, high quality accommodation for health science students on placements in South West Victoria and South East South Australia through a custom designed website utilising owned, leased and partnership accommodation.

Greater Green Triangle Region



Our Website



Our Houses



Method and Approach

Accommodation is recognised as being a major factor in supporting students on rural placement.

The Greater Green Triangle (GGT) University Department of Rural Health purchased or leased suitable housing in various towns around the GGT region and entered into partnership agreements with rural health services to share existing student lodgings. We currently have accommodation available in 12 towns. Accommodation is of a high standard and low cost. It is close to the hospital and community health service in each town. In most accommodation students have access to a communal study area with computers, WIFI internet, printing and telephone facilities. The accommodation typically comprises of individual bedrooms with shared kitchen, living room, laundry and bathroom facilities, information on alternative accommodation in the Greater Green Triangle region can also be accessed via our website.

A custom designed website was created with a student portal consisting of a fully automated online booking system, similar to 'wotif'. The website included details of accommodation and information pertaining to each town in the GGT region. It has been expanded to include the following program functions:-

- Bookings
- Payments
- Emails
- Policies
- Cancellations

Progress/outcomes

The website has been designed so that it is a gateway of information on the region. Students find it easy to locate and self-book accommodation online to suit their needs.

It has greatly reduced the administrative tasks for Departmental and Hospital partnership staff. Once students are registered on the website, whether they utilise the accommodation or not, they are provided with information on social and educational activities being conducted each week in their placement town, encouraging them to immerse themselves in the town and its people.