Thomas Kavanagh

Thomas Kavanagh is a medical student at Monash University and is part of the Extended Rural Cohort program. In 2013 Tom is completing his 4th year of study in the Monash MBBS program in Mildura in north-west Victoria. Tom’s interest in rural health has seen him awarded a RAMUS scholarship that has given him many opportunities to further develop this interest.

Tom grew up in Ballarat in Victoria’s Central Highlands, completed his secondary schooling at St Patrick’s College in Ballarat and, prior to beginning his studies at Monash, spent a year working for a couple of local Ballarat businesses. Tom’s experiences growing up and working in Ballarat ignited his passion for the lifestyle of a regional city and led to his interest in rural health. Tom saw the shortage of health professionals in regional areas as an opportunity for those like himself who would prefer to live and work outside of the major cities and enjoy the opportunities that are available to those who are happy to work in rural or regional centres.

Part of this opportunity is also the need to develop ways to make rural practice more sustainable and attractive for medical practitioners to take on, therefore benefiting the communities they serve. Through his RAMUS mentor Tom has had the opportunity to investigate different strategies and programs being employed by health services to achieve this.