Louise Lawler

Louise Lawler is the Academic Leader for Indigenous Health with Wollongong University’s Graduate School of Medicine. Her role is to ensure the recruitment and retention of Indigenous medical students and that all medical students are introduced to the status of Indigenous health and the environments that maintain these inequitable situations.

Hailing from rural NSW, Louise has held clinical, educational and administrative positions in health and education throughout rural and remote Australia. She has been a remote area nurse and held positions as Director of the Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Education Program in north Queensland, Director of the Remote and Rural Health Training Unit (Dubbo) and Head of the School of Health Sciences, Charles Sturt University in Dubbo NSW. More recently she conducted longitudinal research in Indigenous and community health as lecturer in the University of Sydney’s Rural Clinical School. Louise holds an academic appointment as honorary research fellow with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, and is the Executive Officer of the Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship in Indigenous Health and Welfare.

During 2009/10 Louise was the Director of Future Workforce with Rural Health Workforce Australia which necessitated a close eye on rural and remote workforce issues and planning of ways to attract health students to the bush as practising clinicians. This presentation is a report on work undertaken via the National Rural Health Student Network, which surveyed over 1000 students and enquired of them what they thought were components of truly memorable clinical placements.