

## Connecting places: a best-practice rural health service based in the city

### Lindsay Cane

Royal Far West

From post-war Sydney in the 1920s to post-modern Australia in 2015, Royal Far West remains steadfast in its mission to connect country children with specialist health care services, despite their isolation. Rooted strongly in the belief that country kids deserve the same right to access health services as city kids, Royal Far West is a provider of specialist child health assessment, treatment, tele-therapy and education programs, with a special emphasis on early intervention for children and young people in rural and remote communities.

By no accident, our Child and Family Health Centre sits by the sea at iconic Manly Beach, with our heart resting firmly in rural Australia. Connecting the bush and the beach is fundamental to our wellness model. Connections to people and places are the cornerstone of our service model. Technology-enabled care allows us to work closely with local service providers to build capacity and resilience in rural communities and help families find solutions to seemingly intractable issues.

Under one roof, 130 RFW clinicians, guest house staff, teachers, researchers, volunteers and fundraisers work together to connect and engage with country families, GPs, nurses, teachers, allied health professionals, mayors, NGOs, Rotary Clubs and others to offer the very best of our service to people who deserve the same—‘country kids’.