

MONASH
RURAL
HEALTH



WELCOME TO THE 2017
**EXTENDED
RURAL COHORT**

Welcome to the Extended Rural Cohort

Dear Students of the Extended Rural Cohort

The School of Rural Health at Monash University would like to welcome you to the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences as members of the Extended Rural Cohort (ERC).

You have successfully gained a place in the Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine (MD) course at Monash University which, we believe, will provide you with unique perspectives about the health of regional and rural Australian communities.

At the same time, you'll enjoy a medical education program that is unsurpassed in clinical skills teaching and gives you the chance to experience continuity of health care: you might meet an expectant mother and follow her through to the baby's birth.

Your locations

As an ERC student, you will spend the first two years of your five-year course at the Monash campus in Clayton and most of the next three years at School of Rural Health training sites in north-western Victoria, principally in Mildura and Bendigo.

We are aware that our ERC students, who have been carefully selected for medical training in rural and regional Victoria, may have relatively little contact with our north-western sites and the academic staff who run them until the end of their second year of training.

You'll have an excellent educational experience at Clayton and will be under the careful mentorship of our trusted colleagues on the central campus, which include the school's Rural Education Program staff who reside on Level 1, 37 Rainforest Walk (Building 13A).

Meeting you all

Nevertheless, we are keen to ensure that you all retain some contact with the sites and staff that will have a key role in your medical education and in your personal development as future health professionals.

There will almost certainly be some curiosity and excitement in your group about this program which is implemented in northern Victoria.

There may also be some questions for which we can provide helpful information in your early years at Monash.

For all these reasons we are keen to meet all of you as early in your course as possible and to make a start with the process of getting to know you. This booklet is the first step in that process. In it we hope to provide what is an easy and accessible explanation of the program and some of the most burning questions that have arisen from our previous groups of students.

Information when you need it

We expect to follow up with regular communication via Moodle as well as one or two face-to-face gatherings at Monash, Clayton, during your first two years.

This will give you the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the program in northern Victoria and to deal with any special requirements or requests that you may have as you prepare to spend those very important years of clinical training with us.

During Years 2 and 3 when you need to submit your preferences for long-term regional and rural clinical placements, we will also distribute specific information to you with details of clinical training opportunities in the north-west.

Stay in touch

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/Monash_Rural_Health to keep in touch with news about clinical placements, scholarships, policies and stories about your fellow students.

We all have a great investment in this program and a special interest in ensuring that each of you grows individually and as a group and in assisting you to become the best doctors this University can produce. We look forward very much to meeting all of you and to getting to know you in the very near future.



Laura Major
Manager, Rural Education Program
School of Rural Health
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and
Health Sciences



Panasonic

CSSC audit

Data for projects + programs

- Monash ← MBBS Assets IT/AV
- CSSC - Assets / office
- UniMelb - MD
- BH - attendance, year schedule, disc

no current data only MD2 - MD4 (L)

Funding partners

- AUSA
- IMA

External

Data Entry

data set

register

check

(BH tracking)

Data Storage

system

• USB

- Desktop
- Shared
- Group

Asset Register

Check Doc

Transfer

File

Backup

Best practice

File

Backup to disk

consider

(how?)

the

First two years: Clayton campus

While your first two years are spent at the Clayton campus, some of you will have the opportunity to spend time in regional locations throughout Victoria in Year 2. Accommodation is arranged for you during your two-week Year 2 rural placement and you make your own travel arrangements.

Year 1 Introduction to Rural Health Program

Your introduction to rural health is designed to introduce you to different rural health contexts and is an integrated component of the medicine curriculum at Monash, Clayton. Through participation in interactive educational activities, you will develop an awareness of rural health, rural practice and rural communities.

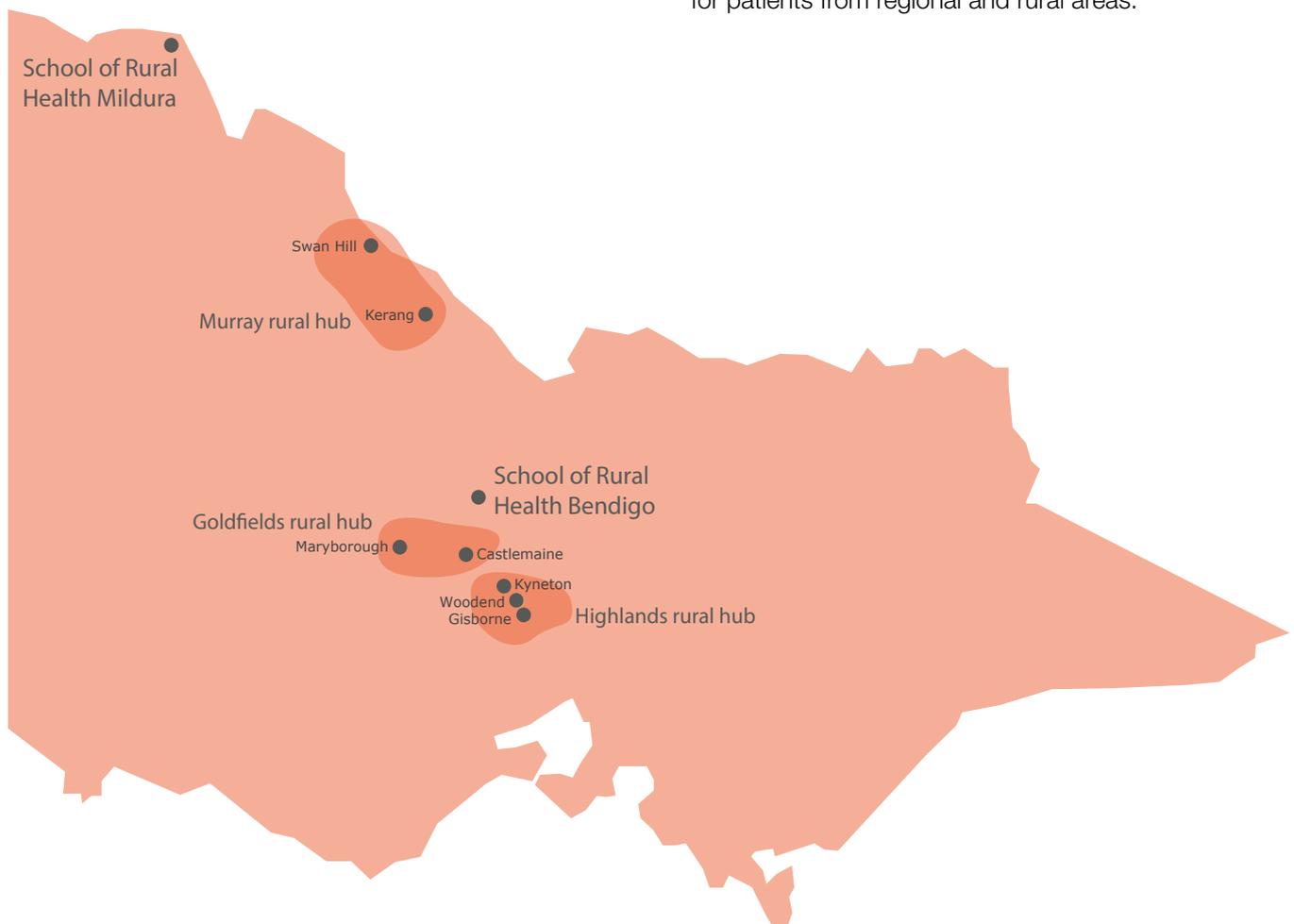
The program takes place at Monash University Clayton and comprises a rural PBL (problem-based learning exercise), and an ERC meet-and-greet presentation and lunch during MedStart 2017, and a series of interactive educational activities with a rural health focus undertaken during Week 4 in Semester 2.

Year 2 Rural Placement Program

The faculty has long been committed to exposing students to regional and rural settings early in their training, with the aim of encouraging you to consider rural clinical training options and ultimately a career practising medicine in a regional or rural setting.

During your two-week regional placement you will be located at School of Rural Health teaching sites and participate in a range of rural health clinical and community-based activities offering a range of learning opportunities.

The Year 2 rural placement program offers you your first opportunity to practise and develop your clinical skills and increase your knowledge of regional and rural health service delivery systems. Our objective is to broaden your knowledge of regional and rural communities which, in turn, will help you in your medical profession when caring for patients from regional and rural areas.





Clinical training years: regional/rural

Your clinical training years will be spent largely in northern Victoria at the School of Rural Health Mildura, School of Rural Health Bendigo and in rural community hubs. You will also be joined by students in Years B, C and D of the graduate entry medicine program.

Year 3B

Year 3B offers the first opportunity for you to immerse yourself in the clinical environment where you can consolidate the knowledge you have developed in Years 1 and 2. Your clinical learning environment will be with either the School of Rural Health Mildura at Mildura Base Hospital or the School of Rural Health Bendigo at Bendigo Health (new Bendigo hospital).

The curriculum for Year 3B is an integrated medicine/surgery curriculum based on the four themes of the medical curriculum. The delivery of 3B across the school is structured and maximises teaching and learning opportunities at each site.

Small group activities are a feature and you will participate in a range of student-centred learning activities that include clinical bedside teaching, ward and operating theatre experience, problem-based learning (PBL) using paper and real patient cases, as well as theme-based teaching.

The curriculum is delivered at multiple sites across rural locations and you will have the opportunity to participate in a transition week which is aimed at preparing you for the teaching and learning in clinical environments.

On completion of Year 3B you must be capable of undertaking history and clinical examination of patients with straightforward conditions, of integrating medical and surgical approaches, of using pathological concepts and of understanding patients' perspectives on their illness.

You must also be capable of extending these skills to more complex patient problems and be capable of accessing and appraising evidence for the clinical decisions you observe.

To become competent in these areas, the School of Rural Health expects that students will demonstrate professionalism and team work while participating to their fullest capacity in organised and timetabled activities.



Year 4C

The Year 4C program is largely taken up with the core clinical rotations of women's health, children's health, general practice and psychiatry. These full-year regional and rural placements are undertaken through regional and rural hospitals, general practices and a wide range of community based centres.

Students are placed during the year with either School of Rural Health Mildura or School of Rural Health Bendigo for one regional semester and in a rural community (Swan Hill, Kerang, Maryborough, Castlemaine, Woodend or Gisborne) for the other semester.

This program will give you opportunities to learn about each of the disciplines at different levels in the health care system. For example, you may spend one semester in Swan Hill under the supervision of a procedural GP participating in a busy obstetric service in a small community hospital and the next semester in Mildura under the supervision of a group of obstetricians and gynaecologists in a very busy regional specialist hospital. You will have similar experiences with the other disciplines in both rural and regional settings.

While in the rural hubs you will see many patients yourself and will have the opportunity to deeply understand the challenges and rewards facing GPs with responsibility for the total care of patients in their communities. In the regional hubs you will have contact with both specialists and GPs and will gain a good understanding of the relationships between specialists and generalists working together to provide collaborative care for both local and referred patients.

Year 5D

The final year of the medicine course is largely hospital based and facilitates the transition of students into the medical workplace as beginning interns.

You will participate in a range of learning experiences which are designed to substantially enhance your clinical reasoning, diagnostic and case management skills. It aims to graduate doctors who are knowledgeable, skillful, reflective and compassionate; and to lay the foundations for future training and lifelong learning in the science and art of medicine.

Undertaking some of your Year 5D clinical rotations in a rural setting offers you an opportunity to experience rural practice in your final year of the medical course.

Students complete six six-week rotations. The six rotations consist of five core clinical rotations (Medicine, Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Aged Care, and Specialty), and an elective. ERC students will spend two of their five core rotations in Bendigo or Mildura. The remaining three can be undertaken in Monash metropolitan clinical settings. The elective rotation can be undertaken anywhere in Australia or internationally, as long as the rotation meets the University's requirements. Mildura and Bendigo currently offer all five core rotations:

- medicine
- surgery
- emergency medicine
- aged care
- specialty

Bendigo and Mildura offer a wide range of specialties and electives. It is important for students to understand the entire health care experience of patients and the activities and learning experiences have been designed to foster such an understanding.

Introducing the north-west sites



Image courtesy Mildura Rural City Council

In Year 3B you will be allocated to either the School of Rural Health Mildura or School of Rural Health Bendigo.

Mildura

Mildura is situated on the Murray River about 550 km north-west of Melbourne and 400 km north-east of Adelaide.

The population of approximately 60,000 enjoys sunshine, mild winters and warm summers, a variety of wineries for tasting and alfresco cafes for eating out. The district produces dried fruits, olives, grains, vegetables, citrus, table grapes and wine.

From water skiing on the river to exploring the nearby Mallee national parks to festivals or celebrations most of the year, Mildura is a vibrant and varied regional city.

mildura.vic.gov.au
visitmildura.com.au

The clinical training site

School of Rural Health Mildura
231-237 Thirteenth Street, Mildura
med.monash.edu.au/srh/mildura/

The School of Rural Health Mildura is located just behind the Mildura Base Hospital. The hospital is a 150-bed (Level 1) tertiary teaching hospital. The centre of a large rural and remote area, Mildura Base Hospital handles serious accident and emergency cases first-hand prior to sending cases on to metropolitan hospitals if required. It provides a range of acute services including emergency, maternity, intensive care, general medicine and surgery, medical imaging, pathology, dialysis, mental health (inpatient and community services) and a range of ambulatory services.

The hospital is also affiliated with La Trobe University and provides undergraduate and postgraduate medical, nursing, and allied health education.

People in Mildura

Director

Associate Professor Fiona Wright

Regional Manager

Kendall Livingstone

Years 2/4C Academic Coordinator

Dr Anthony Weller

Years 3B/5D Academic Coordinator

Jenny Timmis

Years 4C/5D Program Administrator

Desley Reid-Orr

Years 2/3B/5D Program Administrator

Kris Pinney



Bendigo

Located 150 km north of Melbourne, Bendigo with its proud goldfields heritage is a thriving modern city. With a regional population of approximately 109,000 Bendigo boasts a range of industries. It also supports a vibrant sporting and cultural scene, a tempting array of restaurants and cafes and local wineries.

bendigo.vic.gov.au
bendigotourism.com

The clinical training site

School of Rural Health Bendigo
26 Mercy Street, Bendigo
med.monash.edu.au/srh/bendigo/

The School of Rural Health Bendigo is located in the health education and research precinct along with the Bendigo Primary Care Centre and the La Trobe University Rural Health School. The precinct itself is located between the acute and rehabilitation campuses of Bendigo Health.

Bendigo Health is spread over a number of campuses and serves an area nearly a quarter the size of Victoria. A 672-bed multidisciplinary service, it incorporates medical, surgical, rehabilitation, mental health (inpatient and community-based), aged care and ambulatory and community services. Specialty services at the hospital include critical care, cardiology, renal dialysis, maternal and women's health, child and adolescent health, oncology, and orthopaedic services.

People in Bendigo

Director
Associate Professor Chris Holmes
Regional Manager
Melissa McNicol
Year 2 Academic Coordinator
Pam Harvey
Year 3B Academic Coordinator
Dr Steve Lindsay
Year 4C Academic Coordinator
Dr Dennis O'Connor
Year 5D Academic Coordinator
Dr John Edington
Years 2/3B Program Coordinator
Michelle Moon
Year 4C Program Coordinator
Pauline Blake
Year 5D Program Coordinator
Cheryl Sutherland

Frequently asked questions

How many students are in the ERC stream?

Each year there are 30 Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) in the Monash ERC stream.

Do I get to choose where I go for clinical placements?

You will be asked to nominate your preference for clinical placements in Years 3B and 4C within certain constraints. Ideally, you will spend time at rural sites in both Mildura and Bendigo as well as one of the rural hubs. There are many logistical issues to consider when allocating students, so while the University tries to accommodate those preferences, we cannot always do so. Should you have any questions about placements in either Bendigo or Mildura, your first point of contact is Laura Major, Manager, Rural Education Program in the School of Rural Health Clayton office which is located on the 1st Floor, 37 Rainforest Walk at Monash University's Clayton campus.

When do I make my choice?

In the second semester of Years 2, 3B and 4C you'll be asked to nominate your preferences for clinical placements in Years 3B, 4C and 5D.

Where will I live?

Accommodation in rural and regional communities is either college-style or houses/units located close to the hospitals and general practices where you will be placed.

What will it cost and how will I be charged?

The Accommodation Rental Fee is currently \$103/week for long-term placements in Years 3B and 4C, and \$50/week for short-term placements in Year 5D. This fee is reviewed annually. The fee will be charged to your student account and you'll receive a monthly invoice. You can choose a range of methods to pay.

Further information

If you have questions about any aspect of your clinical training across all years, start with the Rural Education Program office which is located within the School of Rural Health office on the Clayton campus, First floor, 37 Rainforest Walk.

Laura Major

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Further information

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