

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Rural Clinical School**

### ***What are the advantages of training in a rural area?***

Students have the opportunity to experience a very wide range of clinical experiences in rural and remote medical practice situations. Students find they have more opportunities to work alongside clinicians, become part of the clinical team and be mentored and taught during this process – either in small groups or on a one-to-one basis.

### ***Will my future career pathway options be limited if I train in an area where there are fewer specialist doctors?***

The Rural Clinical School's program is well supported by a committed and growing team of academic staff from hospital and community-based health care facilities across the region, complemented by visiting specialists from Hobart and Launceston. While there may be fewer specialists in the region, students have a good exposure to most disciplines and have the added advantage of enhanced opportunities for hands-on experience. This provides students with the clinical skills necessary to become safe and competent interns and go on to specialise in any branch of medicine. RCS students have been successful in a range of medical careers following their graduation.

### ***I am concerned about the cost of re-locating to Burnie. How hard would it be to find part-time work to replace my part-time job in Hobart which helps cover my costs?***

A student support program provides financial assistance to medical students moving to study at the Rural Clinical School. This includes subsidised accommodation and re-location assistance. In addition, the RCS may be able to assist students to find likely job opportunities through our close links with the local business community.

### ***If I stay in the Atrium Apartments, can I choose who I share an apartment with?***

Students staying at the Apartments can indicate preferences in this regard. While we cannot guarantee to meet your preferences, they will be taken into account where possible.

### ***What other options are there for accommodation besides the Apartments?***

Given the projected increase in student numbers, the RCS is investigating a range of accommodation options to cater for students while they are in the north west region.

### ***I am really unsure about moving to Burnie as I have never been there before. Is there any way I can come for a visit to check out the RCS and the accommodation options?***

Students are always welcome to visit and get a feel for the RCS and experience the region itself. Where possible, students will be linked to a tutorial, given a look around the hospitals adjacent to the RCS facility in Burnie, shown some of the accommodation options and have the chance to talk with current students and staff. Year 2 Rural Week provides a good opportunity for this. Contact Rosalie.Maynard@utas.edu.au to organise a visitor's program at other times.

### ***Is the curriculum the same at the Rural Clinical School as it is at the Hobart and Launceston Clinical Schools?***

The curriculum is the same for all students undertaking the University of Tasmania's MMBS. Each clinical school delivers the curriculum in a slightly different way. The Rural Clinical School has a focus on emergency medicine and integrated primary care, but all students in the MBBS are required to achieve the same learning objectives irrespective of their allocated clinical school.