

# Rural Doctor Program

Experience the  
Best of Both Worlds



**Health**  
Yorke and Northern  
Local Health Network

Rural Doctor Program



# Yorke and Northern Local Health Network map



**Program Locations:**

Port Pirie, Crystal Brook, Jamestown, Clare, Wallaroo, Kadina and Central Yorke Peninsula, including Point Pearce, Maitland, and Ardrossan.

# Our story

At the heart of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network (YNLHN), fondly known as Yorke and Northern, lies a steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional healthcare services to the vibrant communities spread across the picturesque landscapes of the Yorke Peninsula, Mid North, and Lower North of South Australia.

Our network serves approximately 77,000 individuals. With sixteen hospital sites and eight Residential Aged Care facilities, we offer many services extending beyond traditional hospital settings, including community and allied health services tailored to our residents' diverse needs.

Our dedication goes beyond mere provision. YNLHN has taken proactive steps to address the challenges posed by the scarcity of medical professionals in rural areas. Through the Rural Doctor Program (RDP), we are paving the way for the next generation of medical practitioners to embark on fulfilling careers in our region.



The Rural Doctor Program (RDP) is a crucial initiative in rural healthcare, supporting junior doctors in pursuing rural generalist training.

Accredited by the Australian Medical Council, our program equips doctors with essential skills for rural practice.

Through collaboration with partners, we strive to address workforce shortages and improve healthcare in the Yorke and Northern regions, fostering community and belonging in our healthcare ecosystem.



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Yorke and Northern is home to world class MTB trails.

# Rural Doctor Program

The Rural Doctor Program (RDP) is designed to support and encourage junior doctors to pursue rural generalist training pathways and medical careers within our vibrant region.

Junior doctors can experience the best of both worlds, with city conveniences while reaping the rewards of rural medicine. Imagine having the flexibility to seamlessly transition back to the city whenever the urge strikes while benefiting from invaluable hands-on experiences and personalised mentoring.

At Yorke and Northern, every patient encounter is an opportunity for growth. From the urgency of emergency cases to the tender moments of patient care, each day presents a chance for you to become an indispensable part of our supportive community. Here, your presence isn't just appreciated—it's essential.

But it's not just about the work—it's about the lifestyle. Picture weekends spent exploring picturesque landscapes, bonding with colleagues over bonfires under the stars, and truly feeling like you're making a tangible difference in the lives of those you serve.

So why choose between the city and the countryside when you can have both? Join Yorke and Northern on a transformative journey where having the best of both worlds isn't just a dream—it's a reality.



# The benefits

**The Rural Doctor Program offers an abundance of benefits for junior doctors seeking a fulfilling medical career in a breathtaking region, including:**

- **Unparalleled Training:** Our program provides exceptional training opportunities and support, fostering your growth as a rural doctor
- **Rewarding Career:** With diverse rotations and pathways for fellowship, you'll develop the skills needed for independent practice
- **Tailored Experience:** Enjoy personalised support and access to supervisors, creating a bespoke training journey that meets your needs
- **Accreditation:** Our rotations meet the requirements of the Australian Medical Council, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- **Rotations in Scenic Towns:** Explore regional towns like Clare, Port Pirie, Jamestown, Crystal Brook, Kadina and Wallaroo
- **Engaging Lifestyle:** Enjoy vibrant community life and explore breathtaking landscapes during downtime
- **Accommodation and Incentives:** Furnished accommodation is provided and fully subsidised for the first six months, with additional incentives available.



# The education program

Our education program extends beyond the conventional AMC curriculum, placing a strong emphasis on rural health and regional expertise. Here's what it includes:

- Comprehensive orientation program
- Protected and remunerated weekly teaching time
- Alignment with the AMC curriculum with a specific focus on rural medicine
- Supervision and education delivered by a diverse range of local GPs, Rural Generalists, Specialists, and other healthcare professionals
- Regular simulation (SIM) sessions to enhance practical skills
- Additional opportunities for skill development, such as Advanced Life Support, Neonatal Life Support, Regional X-ray licence, and more.



# Incentives



- Free furnished accommodation provided for the initial six months with low cost accommodation for a subsequent six months.

- Relocation reimbursement

- Subsidised travel home options available



- Individualised support from the Medical Education Unit

- Regular practical skills sessions conducted as a cohort

- Mentorship from senior doctors



- Regular social connections with medical students, registrars, and other trainees

- Welcoming community offering opportunities for involvement and connection



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# Rotation Options for Prevocational Doctors

TERM NAME	PRIMARY SITE	PATIENT CARE CATEGORY	PGY1 or PGY2	TERM SUPERVISOR
Clare GP ED Perioperative	Clare Medical Centre/Clare Hospital	C / D intern A/C PGY2+	Any	Dr Tom Nottage/Dr Melanie Considine
Crystal Brook GP Procedural	Crystal Brook Medical Practice and Hospital	B / D intern A/B PGY2+	Any	Dr KC Chen/Dr Holly Deer/Dr Fiona Forrester
Jamestown GP Procedural	Goyders Line Medical Practice, Jamestown and Hospital	B/D Intern A/B PGY2+	Any	Dr Rowena Conway/Dr Simon Jackson
Kadina GP Womens' Health	Kadina Medical Associates/Wallaroo Hospital	A / B	Any	Dr Anna Kearney
Port Pirie ED	Port Pirie Hospital	A / C	Any	Dr Dewald Behrens
Port Pirie GP, The Terrace	The Terrace Medical Practice	A / B	Any	Dr Andrew Jeyapakash
Wallaroo ED	Wallaroo Hospital	A / C	Any	Dr Dewald Behrens
Wallaroo Inpatient	Wallaroo Hospital	B / C	Any	TBA
YNLHN Paediatrics	Port Pirie Hospital ED and Women's and Childrens Hospital ED	A / C	PGY2+	Dr Dewald Behrens
Yorke Peninsula Aboriginal Health	Maitland Hospital, Ardrossan Medical HQ and Point Pearce Health Service	A / B	Any	Dr Kamban Babu
Port Pirie Obstetrics	Port Pirie Hospital	C / D	PGY2+	TBA
Wallaroo Surgery	Wallaroo Hospital	B/D	Any	TBA
Port Pirie Surgery	Port Pirie Hospital	B/D	Any	Dr Brian Kirkby

## New training opportunities SEM and ASTs

YNLHN has further developed the Rural Doctor Training Program to include training opportunities for general practice and rural generalist trainees.

YNLHN now offers the opportunities for registrars to continue employment with SA Health through the Single Employer Model as of 2025.

This means that registrars can now retain the benefits and security of SA Health employment while undertaking their training.

Advanced Skills Training  
Current AST Posts in YNLHN

Palliative Care – based at Northern Adelaide Palliative Care Service for 6 months, then based in Clare for 6 months

Emergency Medicine – Wallaroo Hospital



# Where you will train

## Mid North

### **PORT PIRIE**

Port Pirie, set against the backdrop of the Southern Flinders Ranges and along Spencer Gulf, offers a blend of historic charm and cultural vibrancy. It's an ideal place to call home, boasting convenient amenities such as museums, fishing spots, and diverse shopping options.



### **CRYSTAL BROOK & LAURA**

Crystal Brook, the gateway to the Flinders Ranges, offers a charming rural lifestyle. Residents can explore historical landmarks, savour local delicacies like the Crystal Brook Pasty, and enjoy outdoor activities in nearby parks and trails. You'll also have the chance to work in the picturesque history town of Laura, home to South Australia's iconic Golden North ice cream.



### **JAMESTOWN**

Jamestown, surrounded by fertile farmland and natural beauty, offers a laid-back lifestyle in a picturesque setting. With its tree-lined streets and nearby forest reserves, Jamestown is an inviting place to call home for those seeking tranquillity and connection to nature. You will be able to participate in outreach clinics at Orroroo and Peterborough.



# Clare Valley

The Clare Valley, renowned for its wineries and picturesque landscapes, invites residents to savour the finer things in life. With numerous cellar doors offering wine tastings and gourmet experiences, Clare Valley provides an idyllic setting for those seeking a peaceful retreat and a sense of community. While working in Clare there are opportunities to care for patients in Burra and Snowtown.



# Yorke Peninsula

## **WALLAROO**

Wallaroo, nestled on the west coast of the Yorke Peninsula, provides a tranquil coastal lifestyle. With its sandy beaches, maritime heritage, and cozy cafes, Wallaroo is the perfect place to settle down and enjoy seaside living, just a short drive from Adelaide.



# Central Yorke Peninsula

(mixed rotation)

## **POINT PEARCE**

Experience a unique opportunity to work with the community and train at the Aboriginal Health Centre. Immerse yourself in the area's natural wonders, from rich reefs to traditional bush foods, and uncover the historical significance of its wells and springs.



## **MAITLAND**

Experience the charm of Maitland, a serene town nestled in the heart of the Yorke Peninsula. Uncover its fascinating past, indulge in local flavours, and immerse yourself in its stunning landscapes. From historical landmarks to culinary delights, Maitland promises a tranquil escape for every visitor.



## **ARDROSSAN**

Perched atop red coastal cliffs, Ardrossan beckons with its historic charm and seaside appeal. Embrace the laidback lifestyle as you explore its pristine beaches and bustling port. Delight in culinary delights at the renowned Ardrossan bakery and immerse yourself in the town's rich history at the local museum. Whether casting a line off the jetty or strolling along the main street, Ardrossan offers an idyllic escape on the Yorke Peninsula.





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Explore the stunning, ancient landscapes of Yorke and Northern.

# More information

For more information on the training opportunities in Yorke and Northern Local Health Network visit the Rural Doctor Program website at [bit.ly/YNLHN-RuralDoctorProgram](https://bit.ly/YNLHN-RuralDoctorProgram) scan the QR code below, or contact [health.ynlhnmeu@sa.gov.au](mailto:health.ynlhnmeu@sa.gov.au)



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