

Media Release: New Doctors for Gunnedah

Gunnedah is one of many towns in the New England/Northwest region of New South Wales to benefit from the successful recruitment of doctors into the General Practice Training Program by local training provider, GP Synergy.

Several new doctors have recently commenced their training as General Practitioners (GPs) in the New England/Northwest region. Known as GP registrars, these doctors are fully qualified having completed university and hospital training. They are now undertaking further training so that they can work independently as GPs. These doctors will spend up to 18 months of their training moving around the region, working in a number of teaching practices, under the supervision of experienced local GPs and supported with education and resources by their training provider, GP Synergy.

One of these doctors is Dr Roshika Perara, who has recently commenced her GP training in a local Gunnedah practice. Roshika completed her training in Sri Lanka, spending the past two years working in a rural community hospital in Victoria.

Roshika says she became a GP because she is passionate about preventative medicine and treating patients throughout their lifespan. 'Working in hospitals you treat patients and discharge them, without seeing them again or knowing the long term outcome', says Roshika, 'As a General Practitioner I can continue my care of patients'.

Roshika is enjoying her training in Gunnedah. 'I really like the environment and people in the New England/Northwest area, and in Gunnedah in particular', she says, 'Gunnedah has a similar feel to other rural towns I have worked- it feels familiar and a good place to train'.

GP Synergy Regional Business Manager, Mr Pat Worthing, says the future of GP training in the region looks bright. 'It is encouraging to see increasing numbers of doctors coming into the New England/Northwest region to train. Many of these doctors are coming from the local area and increasing numbers, like Roshika, are selecting to train here recognizing the high quality training experience the region can offer'.

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