

Media Release: New Doctors for Tamworth

Tamworth 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 Charles Piao, who has recently commenced his GP training in a local Tamworth practice. Originally from China, Charles has been working for the past few years in large tertiary hospitals in Sydney and more recently at Tamworth Hospital.

Charles has wanted to be a General Practitioner since being a medical student. 'I always wanted to be a primary health care doctor as in both in financial and social dimensions, prevention is always better than treatment' he says. The challenge and the diversity of patients and presentations were key factors why he chose to become a GP, suggesting the complexity of the profession is greater than most might expect - 'Preventative medicine is not as straightforward as it is imagined be and with the variety of patients and enormous range of clinical presentations, is it a very interesting and challenging career'.

Becoming a rural GP had many additional attractions for Charles, where he says the more limited access to specialists provides GPs with broader clinical opportunities than those offered in urban general practice. 'As a result', he says 'one might be expected to know a lot more and therefore undertaking GP training in the country might be more challenging but I find it a great learning opportunity'.

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 Charles, are selecting to move to train here recognizing the high quality training experience the region can offer'.

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