

Applications for WK Hunter Scholarship close 31 July

The Barwon Division of General Practice is encouraging university students from Moree, Wyallda, Collarenebri and Bingara to apply for the WK Hunter Scholarship before the closing date of 5pm on 31 July 2009.

The \$3000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student originally from one of the four towns, who is currently completing in their second year of study in medicine, an allied health field or nursing.

Established in 2004, the award recognises former Moree GP and surgeon Dr William Hunter's contribution to both the local medical service and the profession in general.

Moree GP and Chair of the WK Hunter Scholarship Committee Dr Maxine Percival, said the scholarship aims to address the shortage of health professionals in the region.

"Evidence shows that medical students originally from rural areas are more likely to work in rural areas than their urban-bred counterparts, so it is vital that we keep encouraging our young people in the region to pursue careers in medicine and allied health", Dr Percival said.

"The scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for the community to take action to address the rural health workforce shortage and to help secure a sustainable future for the region".

Through the scholarship, successful students receive \$3000 for the academic year to assist with rent, books and associated university costs.

Previous awardees have studied in the fields of Speech Pathology, Nursing, Psychology, Pharmacy, Nutrition, Physiotherapy and last year the award went to Wyallda medical student Nicole Cattanch.

In addition to the \$3000 award, the successful applicant completes a two week placement in the Moree Shire or a week in either Collarenebri, Wyallda or Bingara and a week in Moree.

Dr Percival said the Barwon Division of General Practice was very grateful to the local community for their generous donations which keep the scholarship going year after year.

"It is fantastic to see a community so willing to invest in the future of its health workforce through its support of this award", she said.

Eligible students can apply for the scholarship by visiting www.barwondgp.org.au and downloading the application form.

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