

Rural Generalist Pathway

Name	Bruce Chater
Post Graduate Year	32
Position Title	Medical Superintendent and General Practitioner
Location	Theodore
Advanced Skill	TBA

Bruce has been a doctor in Theodore for over thirty years and provides his perspective on Rural Generalist Training and the arrival of Rural Generalist Trainee Dr Matthew French.

It has been wonderful having Matt here in many ways. The first and most touching was how he and his family kept their original commitment and came here two months after the flood, stayed in our partly refurbished downstairs rooms while their house was still being rebuilt – all with a three month old and a dog!

Matt's understanding of rural people, his interest in rural medicine and his excellent base knowledge and advanced skills mean that he has quickly taken to the work. Unfortunately we haven't been able to give him as much anaesthetics as he or we would like because of the theatre still being refurbished but this is a work in progress.

Matt's presence brings stability to the practice and a sense of stability for the town when I'm away – for him, like it was for me, this is a challenging environment but I hope, scaffolded enough to be a safe one.

The training is an investment of my time but he is a receptive and interactive learner and the process provides a stimulating collegiate environment.

In our situation the remuneration is more patchwork with the hospital and private practice but I think is still reasonable against the SMO benchmark.

We do not expect Matt, Krystie and Stella (and another soon to be born) to stay forever but do appreciate their commitment. The fact that they are here is what needs to be highlighted and celebrated.



Like all who have come to the bush they have had to sacrifice some things – that needs to be recognised and acknowledged in the program. Equally the safe and welcoming environment in the bush is a plus. The “Live in Fly out” still provides a chance to get away and there is always the chance, especially as a doctor, to change the town just a bit too!

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