**Presentation title:** Building a rural and remote GP workforce designed to meet community need

**Abstract** (max. 300 words):

**Introduction**: Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia. The ‘North West Queensland’ (NWQ) GP training region incorporates the bulk of its land area, most of its rural towns, and all of its remote communities. Currently the general practice needs of the NWQ region, especially in the more rural and remote communities, are not being fully met. Generalist Medical Training (GMT) has a vision to improve health for the communities it serves through providing excellent General Practice training using a distributed training model.

**Objectives**: This study applied geo-spatial analysis technology in order to identify priority areas where additional GP training practices/posts could meet the needs of underserved areas.

**Method**: There were a total of 367 accredited GP training posts identified in the NWQ region and mapped against town based population socio-economic index (SEIFA) as an indicator of community need.

**Results**: The analysis found 83% of the Indigenous and 79% of the non- Indigenous population live within 10km of an accredited NWQ practice. The practices were located close to the poorest third of the population while only 6% - 15% of less disadvantaged people live close to these practices. Based on this analysis areas of greatest need were identified. GMT local nodes worked closely with their local communities to establish eight new training posts where they were most needed. New Advanced Skills posts in Paediatrics, Acute Internal Medicine, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and Mental Health have been established to meet increasing need in priority areas.

**Conclusion**: This study has pivotal outcomes for future community need driven approaches to the identification and accreditation of new GP training posts in the NWQ region. The study informed future priority areas for the provision of GP training in order to increase access to general practice and provide registrars with the skills required for working in underserved areas.