**Title**

Implementing rural primary care intern rotations in Tasmania

**Author and affiliations**

Dr Allison Turnock, Department of Health & Human Services Tasmania

Dr Hamish Meldrum, Ochre Health

Dr Lynn Hemmings, Tasmanian Rural and Regional Medical Training Hub

**Background**

In 2017, the Department of Health provided funding to develop rural primary care rotations for interns in Tasmania through the Rural Junior Doctor Training Innovation Fund. This grant application was led by Ochre Health, with the application and implementation supported by a number of Tasmanian organisations such as the University of Tasmania’s Rural Clinical School, and the Tasmanian Health Service. Little information exists to support the implementation of rural intern rotations in states that have not previously employed primary care interns.

**Aims**

The aims of the rural primary care intern positions were to:

* Provide opportunity for Tasmanian interns to experience rural primary care rotations
* Link existing components of the Tasmanian Rural Medical Generalist Pathway
* Increase the capacity of the Tasmanian Health Service to retain University of Tasmania graduates in the state

The aims of this session are to:

* Outline the process of implementation in Tasmania
* Share lessons learned

**Method**

Collaboration occurred throughout the entire grant application and implementation process. Once notified of the outcome, work commenced on accreditation of the rural primary care intern rotations, subsequent to which employment of interns in these positions was possible.

**Results**

In 2018 rural primary care interns are undertaking rural primary care intern rotations in Queenstown, King Island, Flinders Island, St Helens and Huon Valley. This allowed the employment of an additional 5 interns in Tasmania in 2018, with 20 of these interns being afforded the opportunity to undertake a rural primary care intern rotation.

**Conclusion**

Additional work could be done to support the implementation of rural primary care intern positions around Australia by having accessible information on nationally consistent aspects, such as access to PBS and use of Medicare Provider Numbers for interns. Ongoing evaluation of the primary care intern rotations is occurring through the University of Tasmania’s Rural Clinical School.

**References** (If applicable)

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-rural-junior-dr-training-fund>

<http://www.ochrehealth.com.au/news/tasmanian-intern-program/>