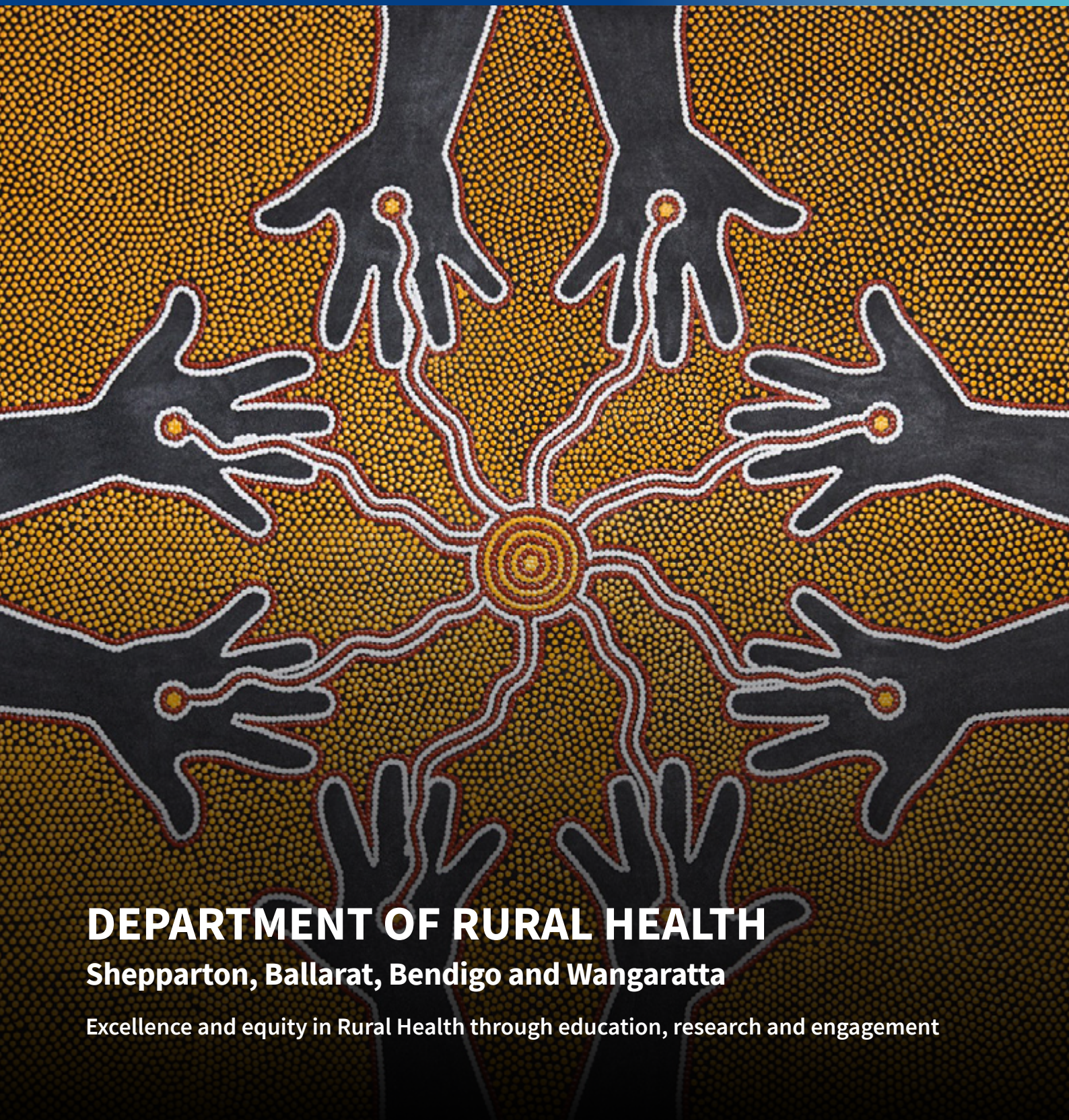




THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

—
Faculty of Medicine,
Dentistry and Health
Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH

Shepparton, Ballarat, Bendigo and Wangaratta

Excellence and equity in Rural Health through education, research and engagement

Excellence and equity in Rural Health through education, research and engagement

The Department of Rural Health is a department within the Melbourne Medical School at The University of Melbourne. The Department is based in Shepparton, Ballarat, Bendigo (in partnership with Monash University) and Wangaratta and has associations with more than 40 smaller rural towns in Victoria.

The key purpose of the Department is to provide professional health education and research training in a rural context with an aim to increase the rural health workforce.

The Department works closely with the local community and healthcare partners to ensure that we remain relevant and connected. Our partnerships underpin our teaching and research.

The Department of Rural Health is funded primarily by the Australian Government Department of Health's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) Program. The aim of the RHMT program is to improve the recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural and remote Australia. The Department works towards this goal with various programs including: The Rural Clinical School, the University Department of Rural Health and The Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub.

The Department also receives funding for other programs and research including the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health.

COVER: Chris Thorne (Artist). *Place of Knowledge*, 2014 Acrylic on canvas

Department of Rural Health



The Rural Clinical School (RCS):

Providing students with an excellent medical education and a rewarding rural experience.



Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH):

Improving sexual and reproductive health in the regions that we serve.



Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub (GVRTH):

Providing support and education to medical students, interns and trainees to help create a sustainable future rural medical workforce.



Campuses

Shepparton, Ballarat, Bendigo and Wangaratta.



University Department of Rural Health (UDRH):

- **Going Rural Health (GRH):** Supporting allied health, nursing and health science students to complete rural clinical placements.
- **Aboriginal Health:** Providing education and research in Aboriginal Health with Aboriginal people.
- **Research:** Undertaking research with impact for rural communities in our region.

WORKING IN THESE
AREAS TO SUPPORT
LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES
AND WORKFORCE

Note: not all programs cover all areas highlighted

Rural Clinical School



The Rural Clinical School is located across four large centres in country Victoria: Ballarat, Bendigo (in partnership with Monash University), Shepparton and Wangaratta; with state of the art campus facilities at all sites, including clinical skills technologies and student accommodation.

Students at the Rural Clinical School train in the following affiliated regional hospitals for between 1-4 years of their studies; providing a wide variety of interesting clinical experience in a smaller student friendly rural environment.

Alpine Health, Ballarat Health Services, Benalla Health, Bendigo Health, Corowa District Hospital, Echuca Regional Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Mansfield District Hospital, NCN Health, Northeast Health Wangaratta and Yarrawonga Health.

"My highlight so far has been the ERC program. You have the opportunity to consult with patients one on one and this allows you to really develop connections with the patients that you are helping to treat. It has been a fantastic experience and has given me a good insight into what it is like to be a real doctor."

Grady Dickason, Student based in Echuca 2021



RURAL PATHWAY TO THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

The University of Melbourne in partnership with La Trobe University deliver a unique end-to-end rural medical program enabling medical students to undertake their studies and training in regional Victoria. Students completing the new Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical) Program at La Trobe University's Bendigo or Albury-Wodonga campus gain guaranteed entry to The University of Melbourne's Doctor of Medicine postgraduate program in Shepparton.

The Rural Medical Pathway is part of the Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network, a component of the Federal Government's Stronger Rural Health Strategy.

EXTENDED RURAL COHORT

In the Extended Rural Cohort program, students in their third year of the Doctor of Medicine course are based in the following rural General Practices to enhance their rural experience. Many students involved in this program end up taking intern positions in regional Victoria.

Benalla: Carrier Street Clinic and Benalla Church Street Surgery

Cobram: Cobram Medical Clinic

Corowa: Corowa Medical Centre

Echuca: Echuca Moama Family Medical Practice and Rich River Health Group

Mansfield: Central General Practice and Mansfield Medical Clinic

Mount Beauty: Mount Beauty Medical Centre

Murchison: Murchison Medical Clinic

Shepparton: Shepparton Lister House Medical Centre, Shepparton Medical Centre, Shepparton Women's Health Centre and Wyndham House Clinic

Wangaratta: North East Family Medicine, Ovens Medical Group and Wangaratta Medical Centre

Yarrawonga: Yarrawonga Denis Medical Group



Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub



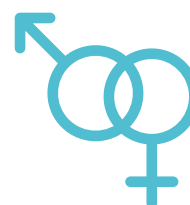
The Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub is one of 26 regional training hubs across Australia tasked with building medical training pathways and guiding students and trainees through these. The Hub provides greater opportunities for graduates interested in rural careers to maintain connections to rural communities while they complete post graduate training.

The Hub works with all health services in our region to increase the number of funded training positions and to improve access to teaching and learning environments. We enable medical students, interns and junior doctors to easily access information about training and our mentoring program provides support by linking them to social and professional networks.

Regional Training Hubs are a component of the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline, a Commonwealth initiative to create a sustainable future medical workforce in remote, rural and regional Australia.



Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health



The vision of the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) is that all rural Victorians have access to quality sexual health care, information and support that is tailored to their individual needs.

CERSH continues to develop sustainable strategies by building collaborations and partnerships between agencies, services and individuals.

The purpose of the Centre is to design, implement and evaluate programs that provide practical solutions for the improvement of sexual health in both the Hume and Loddon Mallee Department of Health regions in rural Victoria. In achieving this, the Centre's priority areas are focused on:

- Rural workforce capacity and development
- Leadership, research, evaluation and knowledge sharing
- Affordable reproductive health

CERSH has developed 12 free and accredited online learning modules to provide rural health professionals, students and other interested rural workers with knowledge and skills regarding aspects of sexual health that particularly pertain to the rural setting. Find out more at: <https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/cersh#online-learning-modules>



Free and
accredited
online health
professional
education

ONLINE LEARNING MODULES FOR
RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
RURAL SEXUAL HEALTH CARE

University Department of Rural Health



The University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) is one of the designated programs of the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program. The UDRH works with local health services and communities across northeast Victoria and the Grampians region to expand the health workforce, increase access to services for consumers and improve quality of care.

The work of the UDRH focuses on Student Placements, Aboriginal Health and Research.

STUDENT PLACEMENTS

The Going Rural Health team supports around 1500 allied health and nursing students each year from a range of different universities and disciplines to undertake a rural clinical placement. The team actively works with health services and education providers, along with students directly, to assist and improve the learning and rural experiences that students gain during their placement.



"I enjoyed being able to work closely with other health professionals and the opportunity to provide personalised care for each client. My teamwork skills have improved immensely as a result of this placement. I also now appreciate the importance of client advocacy and some of the associated advantages and challenges of a rural setting. Having a placement in a rural setting has increased my desire to work in a rural setting once I graduate."

Mateo Glavan, Physiotherapy Student





ABORIGINAL HEALTH

The UDRH supports Aboriginal students undertaking a range of courses – from the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities (delivered by the UDRH team at Shepparton); through to the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Health in Rural Communities, Master of Public Health and PhD. UDRH also supports students studying nursing programs at GOTAFE and La Trobe University in Shepparton (in partnership with ASHE). The UDRH provides Aboriginal cultural competency training for non-Indigenous students and holds successful events including an annual national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.

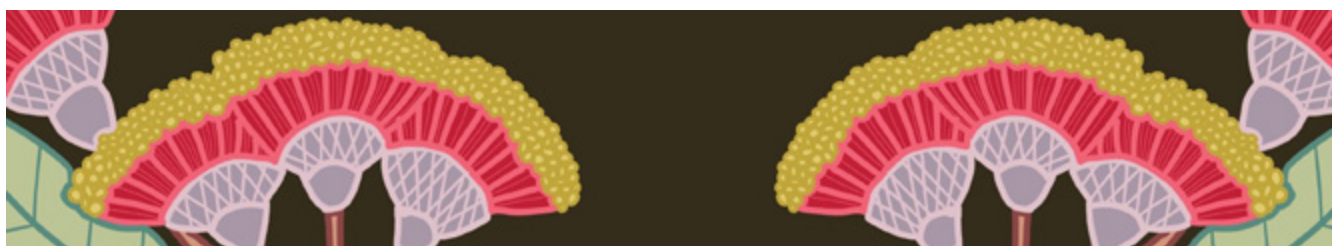
Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities

Recognising and drawing on their work experience in health and community development, this unique course provides pathways to tertiary education for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australians who live and work in their community. It introduces students to health-related knowledges from both Western and Aboriginal cultural perspectives. Students undertake a project with their community or Aboriginal organisation, allowing students to study and work in their communities for the development of both.

RESEARCH

The aim of the Department of Rural Health research program is to undertake research with impact for rural communities in our region. Research is conducted by a small team of researchers undertaking research across the following themes:

- **Rural Health Workforce:** Ongoing projects evaluate student training programs and seek to understand recruitment and retention of rural health professionals.
- **Rural Chronic Ill-health:** Research to understand the needs of rural residents with chronic illness and the most appropriate models of care.
- **Culturally Inclusive Rural Health Care:** This research seeks to understand how rural, mainstream health services can become more inclusive for Aboriginal and other marginalised groups – increasing access to services and improving the experience of health care.
- **Rural Health Academic Network (RHAN):** A team of jointly-funded academics based in five rural health services works to support education and build research capacity in these services.



Artwork: Rebecca Atkinson, Empowering our People, 2019 © Rebecca Atkinson



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Going Rural Health

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Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health

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Goulburn Valley Regional Training Hub

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