

## Meeting the educational needs of the rural and remote practitioner

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<sup>1</sup>CRANApplus

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Libby Bowell is the Education Manager for the CRANApplus First Line Emergency Care (FLEC) program. She grew up on the east coast of Australia and was an emergency and intensive care nurse in metropolitan hospitals until she discovered the remote world in the mid-1990s.

She is an experienced clinical and educational leader in the field of remote emergency care and primary health care, having worked as a remote area nurse in several remote communities in the Northern Territory.

She has extensive international experience with specialties in public health and disaster response, working for the International Red Cross.

As Education Manager Libby is responsible for the continued development of nationally recognised emergency courses for remote practitioners in Australia including nurses, doctors, paramedics and Aboriginal health workers.

Currently Libby lives in Newcastle and commutes regularly to all states and territories and to international disasters for the Red Cross.

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CRANApplus is the peak professional body representing remote practitioners of Australia with an aim to promote the development and delivery of safe, high quality health care to remote areas of Australia and her external Territories (CRANApplus Constitution).

CRANApplus has a strong focus in emergency and maternity education for isolated practice practitioners. The emergency and maternity emergency courses are run nationally and recognise the difficult task in the management and care of the critically injured or ill patient and the pregnant woman.

The Remote Emergency Care (REC) and Maternity Emergency Care (MEC) courses are well established and cater for the multidisciplinary teams approach to assessment and management of the patient.

Demand and feedback over the last 5 years have led us to further develop the courses to have specific emergency and maternity courses for Aboriginal Health Workers as well as an advanced REC for critically care trained practitioners that progress the participant to team leadership and trouble shooting in the emergency situation. The MIDUS course is specifically designed to improve the knowledge and skills of midwives working in remote and rural locations.

To meet the challenges and contemporary remote health practices CRANApplus is developing further to encompass an eRemote e-learning program that provides access to an innovative educational model assisting in maintaining lifelong learning with its diversity and pressure on resourcing in rural and remote practice.

The eRemote program meets the professional requirements of clinicians and employers whilst maintaining quality and links with current remote best practice. The program empowers the health professional by creating learning modules that are engaging, interactive and relevant to rural and remote practice, while ensuring it has a positive outcome on the skills, knowledge and capacity of the remote health workforce.

This presentation will focus on the specific approach to meet the educational needs of practitioners working in an isolated setting.