

Mustering support for general practice

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Rural general practitioners in south-western Queensland continue to demonstrate an interest in engaging medical students through education and training. Not in the 'big city' sense—but through locally planned and produced events with internationally recognised speakers.

This poster will illustrate the attendees and program activities enjoyed by both GPs and medical students at two 'postgraduate' style professional development events. Both the St George Postgraduate Weekend and the Gundy (Goondiwindi) Medical Muster are held biennially, in alternate years, and give medical students a chance to attend the event with GP colleagues and their families, while enjoying the hospitality of rural and remote south Queensland communities.

Key points of the poster presentation:

- Rural and remote GPs from Goondiwindi not only attend the event themselves, but they also sponsor the attendance (travel, accommodation and conference attendance) of medical students.
- GPs design the program in both St George and Goondiwindi, and assist with event facilitation.
- Each event's education components have been financially supported by training consortiums, rural health workforce agencies and pharmaceutical companies.
- At the past two events (one in each location) speakers have included Professor John Murtagh and Associate Professor Anthony Dixon.
- These events not only support the economies of both regions through event planning, but allow GPs to showcase their local areas to medical students, demonstrating the satisfaction and benefits that come from general practice and living in a rural or remote community.
- Gundy Medical Muster coincides with other public events to encourage community planning and sharing, partnering with Rotary International, the Gourmet in Gundy event organisers and local government.
- 'Gundy Medical Muster provided a wonderful insight into rural medicine. The guest speakers were very inspirational. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, and hope to return for a student placement, or maybe to live in Goondiwindi in the future' Bond University medical student
- 'It's good to see such a positive attitude from medical students towards their rural experience' Rural GP, Goondiwindi