



East Wimmera Health Service

Cultivating Healthy Communities

Testimonial— Tracy (Past Graduate Nurse)

“I could not speak more highly of my GNP year at EWHS St. Arnaud. The experience I gained working here over the 12 months is invaluable and I will never forget it.

The staff I worked along side could not be more amazing and supportive, and I will never forget the knowledge they passed on and their friendships will last a lifetime.

I wouldn't be where I am going now without this amazing 12 months behind me, and I could not be more grateful for the opportunities I was given whilst a nursing grad.”

Testimonial— Fiona (Past Graduate Nurse)

“I am truly grateful for the experience I received whilst completing my GN Program at EWHS. From this program I have built upon my knowledge and skills and enhanced my ability to provide quality patient care.

I believe opportunities provided in a small rural setting offer benefits worth considering that are not always given in a metropolitan setting. These include stepping up and taking charge of challenging situations and a variety of clinical experiences. Although daunting at the beginning I have always felt well supported and have enjoyed becoming a member of a friendly team that are highly skilled and experienced.

Colleagues at EWHS have always inspired my learning and have regularly provided helpful feedback that encouraged me to challenge myself and to set new goals.

I overall thoroughly enjoyed the EWHS GN program and have since continued employment with EWHS”.

Testimonial— Shanay (Graduate Nurse)

I have found that this work is a lot different to city work, and in a lot of ways, you get to see what happens behind the scenes for every aspect of someone's care, because, you are the one putting in referrals, seeing through home help, calling peoples specialists to get instructions for their care.

There is also the challenge of having no doctors on site, which means, your skills have to be more advanced and more thorough, because although you get instructions from the doctor, it is up to you to carry it out, unsupervised by them, and only the nurses can analyse the effect. The doctor is going off of what you say. I find that the nurses here have fantastic clinical reasoning skills for this reason. They also have really good triage skills, which is sought after.

I think that a lot of people want emergency experience, and because of Urgent Care, they will get that. Also, if people have an interest in rural nursing, it is a great place to start, because you still have a senior team behind you while you're learning, and when you are feeling more confident, you can step up to remote nursing. Most remote nursing jobs require a few years' experience in rural or remote hospitals, so it is a great way to do that.

There is also the opportunity to do further studies (such as the Rural and Isolated Practice Nurse course), which is only offered after some experience working rurally. I am absolutely keen for that.