



**QRME**  
Queensland Rural Medical Education Limited

# Queensland Rural Medical Education

## Prospectus



## BACKGROUND

In 2006, a group of rural doctors formed Queensland Rural Medical Education – QRME – with a vision to “train to retain” doctors rural Queensland. The initial training was directed at General Practitioners and grew to include medical students and junior doctors.

The QRME partnership with Griffith University is unique in Australia and represents the successful collaboration of a large, established and well-resourced university with a flexible, responsive, not-for-profit community-based organisation that is acutely attuned to the changing needs of the rural communities it serves.

The flagship LongLook program supports one- to two-year clinical placements for medical students in rural communities. These lengthy placements provide an alternative to the model of short-term clinical rotations for city-based medical students, many of whom have not considered careers in non-metropolitan settings. The LongLook program addresses medical workforce shortages in rural communities through the achievement of a rural retention rate of 80% for LongLook students who have trained in a rural community for two years.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2006** Commenced training of rural general practice registrars in the Australian General Practice Training Program.
- 2010** In partnership with Griffith University, QRME attains \$8.3M federal funding through Health Workforce Australia for the construction of training and accommodation facilities. These assets lead to an immediate increase in rural training capacity and clinical training. Clinical placements continue to grow every year.  
QRME and Griffith University establish the LongLook program
- 2012** Clinical Training Centres completed at Stanthorpe Warwick and Kingaroy Hospitals and Hume Street Toowoomba. Student accommodation facilities completed at Stanthorpe, Warwick and Kingaroy.  
Griffith University dental training clinic is established in Warwick
- 2014** Griffith University and QRME commence a rural midwifery program based in Toowoomba
- 2016** QRME purchases student accommodation in Toowoomba to support expansion of the LongLook program  
Griffith University dental training clinic is established in Kingaroy  
QRME purchases student accommodation in Gympie to support expansion of the LongLook program
- 2018** Griffith University, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and QRME collaborate to expand investment in rural health training through the establishment of a training centre at the Dalby Hospital.  
QRME purchases student accommodation in Dalby to support the expansion of the LongLook program.
- 2019** The rural midwifery school offers a LongLook program, with a cohort of 8 students to train for two years in Stanthorpe, Warwick, Dalby and Kingaroy hospitals.  
A pilot placement program for 3rd year medical students based in General Practices and outreaching to specialist hospital services commences in Toowoomba.  
QRME purchases student accommodation in Jandowae to support the expansion of the LongLook program.

## ASSETS

As at 2019, QRME employs medical and clinical educators in Stanthorpe, Warwick, Dalby, Kingaroy, Beaudesert, Gympie and Toowoomba. All educators live and work in their rural community and all have, or are working towards, postgraduate qualifications in clinical education.

Griffith University and QRME operate training and accommodation facilities at Stanthorpe, Warwick, Kingaroy, Dalby, Gympie and Toowoomba, with a combined capacity for 70 trainees.

QRME as a not-for-profit organisation and with income from other service streams continually invests in programs with the purchase of additional student accommodation in Toowoomba in 2016, Gympie in 2017, Dalby in 2018 and Jandowae in 2019 to enable the expansion of placements.

## RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE PIPELINE

QRME is the only medical training organisation in Australia that graduates a broad spectrum of health practitioners, from medical students through to specialists.

QRME has 13 years of experience in successfully graduating rural General Practitioners in the AGPT program for both ACCRM and RACGP. Following the change in training funding arrangements in 2014, QRME has continued to successfully deliver private training to AGPT candidates

## PRODUCTS

QRME and Griffith University have developed a Master of Rural Medicine qualification closely aligned to the learning outcomes of rural General Practice specialisation.

## RESEARCH

Research at QRME is focused towards improving health and wellbeing of rural and remote communities. Projects currently underway explore ways to quantify the impact of rural medical educational innovations and investigate issues surrounding access to health care in rural and remote areas. The research group has the capacity to analyse medical problems unique to rural communities such as exposure to agricultural endeavours including trauma through accidents, cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental health problems. We also have the capacity to evaluate interventions, including training and development programs. Our research program plays a vital role in training the next generation of health professions to support excellence in delivering rural and remote healthcare. A key feature of our operation is access to a wide network of rural generalist hospitals and general practices throughout the Darling Downs, South Burnett and Western Downs where our students regularly undertake ongoing clinical audits and research projects.

