

Australian Rotary Health: Indigenous Scholarships

Focus: Indigenous Health Scholarships – Annual Donors

Location: Western Australia

Rotary Clubs of Applecross, Cockburn, Kenwick, Ascot, Mundaring, Southern Districts, Melville, Karrinyup, Boronia, Margaret River, and Scarborough – including Woodside Energy

Australian Rotary Health is one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia.

It also provides funding into a broad range of general health areas, provide scholarships for rural medical and nursing students, as well as Indigenous health students. Australian Rotary Health provides funding into areas of health that do not readily attract funding, and promotes findings to the community.

Australian Rotary Health is supported by a number of Rotary Clubs in Australia. We have a broad vision to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians.

Indigenous Health Scholarships

The objects of this program are:

- to provide a scholarship, which can be used to assist Indigenous students to undertake a course in a wide range of health related professions;
- to assist students to gain an education which will in turn enable them to use this education for the benefit of other Indigenous people in some of our remote areas;

with the intention of training doctors to work amongst other Indigenous people, but the scope of the scheme has enlarged to permit the training, firstly of nurses, and now other health related professions.

The annual value of the scholarship is \$5,000 per year (half of which is donated by Rotary Clubs).

Scholarship Recipients 2015

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Vinka Cummis-Barunga - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC's of Applecross and Cockburn

Luke Davies - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Kenwick

Shauna Hill - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Ascot

Veronica Dolman - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Mundaring

Daniel Hunt - University of WA – Dentistry, sponsored by RC of Southern Districts

Phoebe Strickland - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Melville

Samantha Jackson - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Karrinyup

Shaydeen Stocker - Marr Mooditj Training – Nursing, sponsored by RC of Boronia

Scholarship Recipients 2014

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Vinka Cummins-Barunga - University of WA Medicine, sponsored by Woodside Energy

Naomi Smith - University of WA - Health Science, sponsored by Woodside Energy

Luke Davies - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Kenwick

Gemma Johnston - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Melville

Shauna Hill - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Ascot

Veronica Dolman - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Mundaring

Daniel Hunt - University of WA – Dentistry, sponsored by RC's of D9750

Scholarship Recipients 2013

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Vinka Cummins-Barunga - University of WA Medicine, sponsored by Woodside Energy

Naomi Smith - University of WA - Health Science, sponsored by Woodside Energy

Luke Davies - University of WA - Medicine, sponsored by RC of Kenwick

Gemma Johnston - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Melville

Shauna Hill - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Margaret River

Veronica Dolman - University of WA – Medicine, sponsored by RC of Cockburn

Daniel Hunt - University of WA – Dentistry, sponsored by RC of Scarborough

January 2017 – Vinka Cummins-Barunga

VINKA BARUNGA



When as a child she discovered that Aboriginal people had a life expectancy 20 years lower than the general population, Barunga made it her mission to improve the health of indigenous people in her hometown of Derby. By the time she was 10, Barunga had attended more funerals than any young girl should, losing friends and family members prematurely. The petite 27-year-old Worrora woman has now finished her medical degree at UWA and is closer to realising her ambition of returning to Derby as the town's first Aboriginal doctor. She will spend the next 12 months completing her rotations in general medicine, surgery and anaesthetics, rural GP, emergency medicine and psychiatry, before deciding on a speciality. "A large part of my decision will come down to what I can take back to Derby and how I can best serve the Aboriginal community there," Barunga says. "I won't be able to go back for at least four years, but I definitely will return."