

Media release — Monday 14 November 2011

## Country NSW medical students urged to apply for ‘significant’ scholarships

Medical students from country NSW, who are commencing the second year of their degree in 2012, are being encouraged to apply for *The Land* and Rural Doctors Association of NSW’s Rural Medical Scholarships.

This is the second year that the scholarships are being offered. The two scholarships, each of \$7500, aim to support medical students from country NSW to undertake their studies, given those who are raised in the bush are the most likely to return to the bush to practise after graduation.

Applicants must already be enrolled in an Australian medical school, have a letter of support from a senior figure in their local rural community, and not be bonded medical students or recipients of another scholarship (although successful recipients who forfeit their existing scholarship will be accepted). They will need to submit a 2000 word essay as part of their application, covering why they are studying medicine, their career goals and demonstrating an understanding of the role and value of rural doctors. Various other requirements also apply.

The successful applicants will also receive advice and support throughout their degree from members of the Rural Doctors Association of NSW’s Executive Committee (all practising rural doctors) through a mentoring arrangement.

**General Manager of *The Land*, John Dwyer**, said the newspaper was again delighted to join the Rural Doctors Association of NSW in promoting the scholarships.

“Our 2011 scholarships identified two outstanding medical prospects in Hannah Kelly and Matthew Binks, and I’m sure the 2012 scholarships will do the same” Mr Dwyer said.

“*The Land* enjoys fostering and promoting young people from the bush and the Rural Medical Scholarships fit well with this theme.

“Anything that can be done to ease the cost burden while studying is positive, and we’re happy to assist with the development of young medical students, especially those who see practising in country areas as part their future.”

**Acting President of the Rural Doctors Association of NSW, Dr David Richmond**, thanked *The Land* for backing the scholarships again in 2012, reflecting the newspaper’s commitment to rural people and rural medicine.

“We are again delighted to work with *The Land* to offer these scholarships. Rural students are under-represented in tertiary degrees, including medicine, but are more likely to work in rural areas once their degrees are completed—this is why it is so critical to support country students who are studying medicine.

“A degree in medicine is a tough course to get through, and the ability to work part-time while studying is limited. These scholarships are of great benefit to their recipients for the year they have them, enabling them to concentrate on their studies and also exposing them to rural doctor mentors along the way.

“We hope the scholarships fill a small piece of the puzzle in attracting our bright country kids into medicine, and then hopefully keeping them involved in rural medicine once they have finished their degrees. With any luck the scholarships will act as a springboard to encourage the retention of some of these excellent country students into rural medicine for the longer-term.”

Applications for the 2012 scholarships must be received by the Rural Doctors Association of NSW by 5pm on Friday 16 December 2011. Intending applicants must read the full terms and conditions of the scholarships prior to submitting an application—these can be found at [www.rdansw.com.au](http://www.rdansw.com.au).

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**Available for interview:**  
**Alternative contacts:**

Dr David Richmond on 02 6341 1400 and John Dwyer on 0419 232 755.  
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