

Media release
Tuesday 26 November 2013

Scholarships on offer to help rural NSW medical students

For the fourth year, *The Land* newspaper is offering two scholarships to support second year medical students from rural NSW in 2014.

Dr David Richmond, President of the Rural Doctors Association of NSW (RDA NSW) and a rural generalist doctor in Cowra, NSW, said it was great to see NSW's most iconic rural paper supporting medical students in this way.

"Getting into medicine at university is tough enough but, for many students, actually making it through while supporting yourself away from home, often in the city where living expenses are high, is even tougher" Dr Richmond said.

"For the fourth year now, *The Land* is offering two scholarships of \$7500 each to second year medical students from rural NSW.

"The scholarships are also supported by the Rural Doctors Association of NSW (RDA NSW), which provides the opportunity for the successful applicants to be mentored throughout their degree by members of the RDA NSW Management Committee — all practising rural generalist doctors themselves.

"We know that young doctors who are from the bush are the most likely to return there to practise once qualified, so supporting our rural medical students throughout their studies is a great way of building the rural medical workforce of the future.

"We thank *The Land* for its generous and ongoing support of this program, and wish all the applicants the best of luck."

The Land's general manager, John Dwyer, said the sponsorship fitted well with the paper's theme of promoting and supporting young people from country areas.

"The scholarships were started as part of *The Land*'s centenary celebrations in 2011 and we look forward to supporting rural medical students in the years to come" Mr Dwyer said.

"From the feedback we've received, the cash comes in very handy."

To qualify for the scholarships, 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 already be bonded or be recipients of another scholarship.

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Applicants will be required to submit a 2000 word essay-format application incorporating why they are studying medicine, their career goals and an understanding of the role and value of rural doctors in Australia.

Visit www.rdansw.com.au/node/6843 for further information on the scholarships and how to apply. Applications close on Friday 13 December 2013.

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