



Kaylee Brown profile - Eyre and Far North Local Health Network

In this edition we hear from Kaylee Brown, Medical Education Officer within the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network. Kaylee explains why she loves her role, her work and her life with the Trainee Medical Officers.

Kaylee Brown grew up in Western Australia in the semi-rural area of Armadale. She studied nursing at Notre Dame University in Fremantle, followed by working as a nurse for seven years across different areas and specialties, ICU/cardiac care and theatres.

In 2014 she moved with her husband to his home of Port Lincoln. She fell in love with the diversity and large scope of practice of rural nursing, allowing her to pursue multiple areas of interest. In the 12 years since making the move, Kaylee says she has acquired and expanded skills and knowledge that she would not have had she stayed in the city.

Kaylee describes Port Lincoln, situated on the Great Australian Bight, as where the farm meets the sea.

The Region

“It has amazing views almost wherever you live,” she explains. “As the seafood capital of Australia, the area offers delicious coffin bay oysters and fresh seafood. There is camping in the beautiful national parks, walking trails, beaches, surfing, fishing and water or four-wheel-drive tours. You can swim with the sharks and tuna, do the oyster walk and eat freshly shucked oysters.”

With a family of four children ranging in age from 15 down to 5, life is busy between family, a menagerie of pets (a cat, rabbits and a fish) and her work in the EFNLHN Medical Education Unit (MEU). She and her family regularly undertake road trips, camping and swimming, and Kaylee says combining their deep spiritual faith with the beautiful outdoors brings them closer together.

“I love walking and running along the beautiful trails. As a family we love camping in Elliston - it’s absolutely beautiful and there is nothing else to do but [be in] nature and spend time together.”

Training future rural generalists

Following her work as a clinical nurse facilitator for Transition to Professional Practice Program (TPPP) and, prior to that, working as a dialysis and chemotherapy nurse, she joined the EFNLHN MEU in 2024 backfilling as the Medical Education Officer



(MEO). Kaylee says she fell in love with the role.

The role not only allowed her to enhance her simulation-based education skills with amazing young doctors, but also to support their career pathways and growth aspirations, developing their education program for the year. She utilises her connections and networks to build a robust education calendar and loves watching the Trainee Medical Officers (TMOs) thrive and grow as the year progresses, feeling privileged to help them on their journey to achieve amazing things.

“Not only do I live in a beautiful part of the world, but there is also the work-life balance. For me it has been the ability to have a large scope of practice as a health professional. I love learning and acquiring new skills with almost limitless opportunities in the region as we need so many skilled health professionals.”

A day in the life

Kaylee describes her typical workday as one of variety and being what you make of it. She teaches clinical skills and simulation-based education along with completing day-to-day administration. The unit prides themselves on being innovative in creating and facilitating new or blended rotations that meet their TMOs’ personal interests and career goals.

This is further expanded by the support offered by the Rural Generalist Program of South Australia, with workshops helping the MEOs across rural South Australia to connect.

Kaylee loves the hands-on teaching that she gets to do, and says she has learned a lot from the TMOs, senior doctors and supervisors. She prides herself on being personable, knowing all the TMOs, and building friendships and connections. That, she says, is much harder to do in a larger metro health system.

“I just love it when the TMOs stop by to talk and hang out or have a debrief. We love to see them and hear about the exciting day they have had or [their] learning experiences.”





She says being regional also provides a greater opportunity to support international medical graduates with ward rounds, clerking and bedside clinical teaching.

The difference with a rural internship

One thing that really stands out to Kaylee is that the TMOs get to work directly under the consultants, meaning they get to do a lot of hands-on clinical skills that they wouldn't necessarily get in metro. She says EFNLHN can provide vast exposure to lots of sick people who require procedural intervention, allowing their TMOs to gain experience.

“We have some really amazing rotations that enable a sneak peek into rural generalism in multiple ASTs such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and emergency. We also like to tailor rotations to accommodate the personal interests of the TMOs,” she says, adding that they are currently working on a blended radiology rotation as well as a Mental Health AST.

The MEU also provides ALS2 training as part of their program and offers opportunities to complete POCUS training locally. One of Kaylee's proudest achievements was her recent nomination for - and winning of - the SAMET excellence award for outstanding support in medical education and training for rural and remote environments. She has also achieved adding simulation-based training as part of the regular education that TMOs receive at EFNLHN.

The EFNLHN MEU often joins up with FUNLHN to run clinical training days, which provides an opportunity for TMOs from both regional LHNs to network and build friendships. Kaylee believes it is awesome that all South Australian regions now have medical training programs enabling junior doctors to see the potential of working in, and being exposed to, South Australia's regional health networks.

Her advice for medical students and prevocational doctors considering training in rural and rural generalism is, quite simply, to do it:

“Do it, it will be the best years of your life. You will be so well looked after and will gain knowledge and experience that your metro counterparts won't have the opportunity to. You won't regret it.”

Find out more about how Rural Generalism Program SA can support you on your rural generalism pathway: ruralgeneralist.sa.gov.au