



John Flynn Placement Program Overview

<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP) was established in 1997 and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health (the Department). It aims to attract more doctors to rural and remote areas where there is a current workforce shortage. The Rural Workforce Agency Network (the Network) administers and coordinates all aspects of the program on behalf of the Government. Health Workforce Queensland (HWQ) is the Lead Agency of the Network. NTGPE is sub-contracted by HWQ to deliver the program in the Northern Territory. In the NT John Flynn students complete three placements, a total of eight weeks. (This is instead of 4 placements as per non- NT students) The aim is for students to complete their 8 weeks of placement in the same remote community clinic.
<p>JFPP Learning Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>John Flynn placements are not designed to provide the same degree of clinical experience as a university accredited clinical placement. Students are not expected to complete specified clinical experiences or assignments and there is no expectation that mentors will teach or supervise particular clinical skills. Placements are ultimately about experiencing life in a remote community and learning about Aboriginal culture.</i> John Flynn placements enable medical students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gain a better understanding of rural/remote medical practice and healthcare services, experience working with a variety of health professionals such as medical practitioners, Remote Area Nurses, Aboriginal Health Practitioner etc gain exposure to local Indigenous culture and way of life, gain exposure to the lifestyle of a rural/remote health professional, and form long term relationships with a rural/remote community
<p>Mentoring Role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are assigned to a clinical mentor (or in some instances, multiple mentors) for each placement. The mentor acts as a role model and introduces students to rural/remote practice and the local health facilities in their region. The mentor is responsible for supervising and supporting the student by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing work experience during the JFPP placements that are appropriate to the student's year of study; creating opportunities for the student to interact with other health providers in the community; providing opportunities for the student to interact socially and culturally with their local community; and providing information, guidance and feedback. <i>Because of the unique nature of health service delivery in the NT, it is not always possible for medical students to be mentored by a medical practitioner. It is therefore reasonable for students to be mentored and or work alongside clinic RANs, Aboriginal Health Practitioners and other health professionals.</i> NTGPE instructs students to phone their mentor prior to placement as a way of introduction and discuss any placement issues. They may also request information about community bank/ATM facilities, food stores and availability of particular dietary items, telephone/internet coverage etc. A brief planning session between the student and their mentor is advisable to orientate the student around the clinic/community and to discuss and agree on the students learning and experiential goals and the corresponding activities that will enable these goals to be achieved. NTGPE will provide mentors with student information before each placement including emergency contact details and relevant health information.
<p>Student Checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students are required to complete a National Police Check (no more than 6 months old when placement commences) and an NT Working with Children Check (Ochre Card) prior to placement. Students are required to have their Ochre Card with them at all times on placement.

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Medical Indemnity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students must arrange medical indemnity insurance for the period of their placement. Students provide a copy of their current medical indemnity insurance policy to NTGPE who keep this on file. It is highly recommended students organise their own travel insurance for whilst they are on placement.
Student Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>JFPP students are not to make independent health care decisions for patients. Ultimately the mentor/clinic staff is responsible for patient care. They must therefore ensure all JFPP students are adequately supervised.</i> Some activities that the student could undertake, with a level of appropriate supervision, and depending on their level of experience (with the permission of the patient and at the discretion of the Mentor) might include; observing patient consultations, checking medical records, taking patient histories and undertaking basic physical examinations. As the student's skills develop activities might include; treatment of minor lesions, removing sutures, dressing minor wounds, providing immunisations and undertaking patient histories with reduced supervision.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTGPE has student accommodation in a number of remote communities and town centres. Where this is not the case, it is hoped that students can reside in other clinic/community accommodation as recommended by the clinic/mentor. Occasionally NTGPE will arrange and pay for students to stay in commercial accommodation. For example, cabin in a Caravan Park.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTGPE is responsible for arranging all student transport within the NT including to and from their remote community placement. This primarily involves the use of public transport (e.g. flights, Centre Bush Bus) or NTGPE may drive students to their placement. Occasionally students are able to travel to and from their placement with health clinic staff if this is available/convenient.
Student Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>NT Department of Health Guidelines state that "students must not drive government vehicles". NTGPE does not provide students with a vehicle.</i> Driving in the NT is very different to driving in most parts of Australia due factors such as vast distances, isolation and varied road surfaces. Driving a 4WD and/or on unsealed roads requires specific skills/training. Roads can be poorly formed, conditions unpredictable and hazards unsigned N.B. there are limitations on the use of hire vehicles in the NT and students should check with the hirer if they are considering this option.
Financial Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An honorarium payment of \$300/week plus GST is provided to clinics for mentoring and supervising JFPP students. Clinics will be asked to invoice NTGPE post placement. (For Dept of Health clinics, invoicing occurs through Head Office.) Students are paid a stipend of \$450 for the first week of each placement and \$500 per each subsequent week to cover incidental expenses, food etc
Medical History and Immunisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are asked to declare any medical conditions or allergies they may have. Any issues/concerns regarding a student's health status will be communicated (with student authorisation) to the mentor prior to placement. Immunisations require are: Hep A, Hep B, Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis, Tetanus (date administered) Influenza (annual), TB screening
Pre-placement Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to their first placement all students attend Cultural Orientation and Clinical Training. This occurs over two days. Students completing their placement in a Department of Health clinic will also undergo Primary Care Information System (PCIS) training prior to their placement(s). In the first instance this will involve a 4 hour training session. Prior to further placements, this may involve a "refresher" session.
Placement Support Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst on placement, students are required to participate in a weekly teleconference facilitated by NTGPE. During teleconferences students have an opportunity to discuss issues with a Medical Educator, Cultural Educator, John Flynn staff and other students.
Contact Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JFPP Manager: 0407 541 945 JFPP Support Officer: (08) 8950 4840 Email: johnflynn@ntgpe.org JFPP Emergency After Hours Contact: if your matter is urgent please phone (08) 8946 7079. You will then be directed to an on-call contact person. HWQ: 1800 223 226