New Partnerships – Working with Charles Sturt University

Professor John Dewar

The reason we’ve established this partnership with Charles Sturt University is that as two very significant regional universities we have a lot of interests in common and one of those is to tackle the shortage of medical practitioners in the bush.

There is a terrible mal distribution of medical practitioners willing to work in different parts of the country, and that shows up most starkly in rural and regional areas. We believe that by drawing on the strengths both institutions have in rural health education and our capacity to actually deliver health programs in the bush, that that will be a very good solution and will help address that problem.

Professor Jane Farmer

There’s a lot of evidence and it’s been used by the World Health Organization to show that if you want people to work in rural areas, it is better to take rural students, train them in rural areas, and that’s how they’ll end up working there.

If there was a rural medial school at one of our regional campuses we would select 80% of the students from regional areas and a large proportion of their training would take place in regional areas, therefore there’s a very high likely hood that they would end up working in a regional area.

Professor John Dewar

It is an absolutely logical next step for La Trobe to seek to expand its rural health offerings in Bendigo to embrace medicine. It’s virtually the only health subject or discipline that we don’t currently offer and it will allow us to exemplify something we believe in very strongly which is inter-professional practice.

Professor Jane Farmer

The advantages of integrated training would be that the health professionals of the future would all know what their different roles were in the health care system so they could really draw on each other’s expertise to the benefit of the patient.

Professor John Dewar

Both universities believe passionately in the power of higher education institutions to make a difference in their communities. So the DNA of the two institutions is very closely aligned which I think makes us a really good partnership.