



Media Statement

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Cricket player turns to medicine

Maylands resident Jason King might have forged a career with bat and ball on the WACA Ground but he took a different path.

This path has seen him start work as a Medical Intern in the shadows of the famous cricket ground over at Royal Perth Hospital.

A record breaking 177 new medical Interns started work in Western Australian public hospitals this week, with 65 of these starting out at RPH.

Originating from Moora, Jason's journey through medicine is slightly different to that of his colleagues.

Jason, 32, moved to Karratha as a young boy then moved to Perth on a cricket scholarship.

Although many school teachers encouraged Jason to pursue a sporting career he knew he wanted to do medicine.

"My two aunties are nurses in Geraldton and my mum had health problems so I regularly visited hospital and my interest in medicine grew from there," Jason said.

Jason started studying medicine straight from school however after three years he decided to postpone his studies and enter the workforce.

While working Jason studied medieval history and Japanese for two years until he realised that medicine was his true calling.

"I wanted to interact with people and knew medicine was a career where I'd have contact with many people," he said.

“When I returned to medicine my mind was clearer and I had a different perspective after being out in the workforce.”

Jason said he has a particular interest in Emergency Medicine as it is a challenging, team oriented environment.

“In Emergency Medicine you have to solve problems in a short amount of time with a very ‘hands on’ approach.”

“I like the fact that you get to liaise with numerous other specialities around the hospital such as nursing and social work.”

Jason will be doing his first round of his internship at Royal Perth Hospital and said he wanted to come to RPH because of its good reputation and variety of patients.

Even though Jason is slightly older than his colleagues who went straight to university from high school, Jason said it didn’t matter to him how long it took to complete the degree.

“The study was actually a lot easier the second time around having that life experience behind me.”

Coming from an Indigenous background Jason said he hopes other Indigenous people follow their dreams like he did.

“There is plenty of support out there and if you put your mind to it anything is possible.”