

Media Release

January 23, 2009

RPH has record number of interns

Royal Perth Hospital had its largest ever number of medical interns start work this week.

A total of 89 medical graduates started working at RPH this week, with some of them doing country placements as part of their introduction to the Hospital system.

RPH Director of post graduate medical education Dr Richard Tarala said RPH had 65 interns last year and 51 in 2007.

“This is a very marked increase, both for Royal Perth Hospital and the state as a whole,” Dr Tarala said.

“This is the beginning of more health care for West Australians.

“From this new group of medical graduates starting this week we will have more doctors to send out into the country and into the community as a whole.”

He said each intern would have five placements of eleven weeks throughout their first year as doctors.

They will rotate within various disciplines within RPH and also a number of sites outside the hospital.

In particular RPH sends many interns to rural sites, including Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Port Hedland and Broome, which is very positive for country residents.

Of the 89 interns, approximately 70 will have at least one rotation at a country location.

Prior to beginning their placements, all the interns had a one week orientation at RPH.

They undertook many courses, including learning about Freedom of Information, Needlestick Injuries, Child Protection Reporting, Infection Control, and Management of Aggression Training (MOAT).

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