



Fellowed General Practitioner Dr Skye Curlis shares her amazing journey since entering medical school wanting to be a 'Country GP' along with picturing a life of endless possibilities and adventure...and the moment she realised rural was perfect for her.

Dr Skye Curlis

Skye shares with the RGPSA that her early career would best be described as 'nomadic', and her training pathway included selecting as many rural options as possible to complete her RACGP Fellowship while she was working in remote communities with the RFDS.

Wishing to lay down roots with her young family, they settled in the Adelaide Hills and started to work at a General Practice in Littlehampton, which involved regular shifts in the Emergency Department (ED) at the Mount Barker Hospital. Once her youngest child had started school, she was ready for a new challenge and decided to consolidate her skills by completing advanced skills training in Emergency Medicine with ACRRM and attaining Fellowship as a Rural Generalist.



Originally from Melbourne, Dr Curlis had never visited the Eyre Peninsula before and, after a brief scouting mission of the area, she decided to move to Tumby Bay with her husband, who now plays football at the local club. The couple were warmly welcomed and made instant connections which have transformed into lifelong friendships. Dr Curlis and her husband have two active young boys, who are fortunate to be able to drop off their bags after school and ride their bikes, kick the footy or go fishing off the jetty. Skye loves the independence the boys have that only small-town living can provide. Skye herself attends Book Club at the local library and has joined the local running group that is organised by a fellow Rural Generalist who is also passionate about the health of the local community.

Reflecting on her journey, Dr Curlis recalled that she has experienced many moves and can't think of many transitions that have been as easy, welcoming, and warm.

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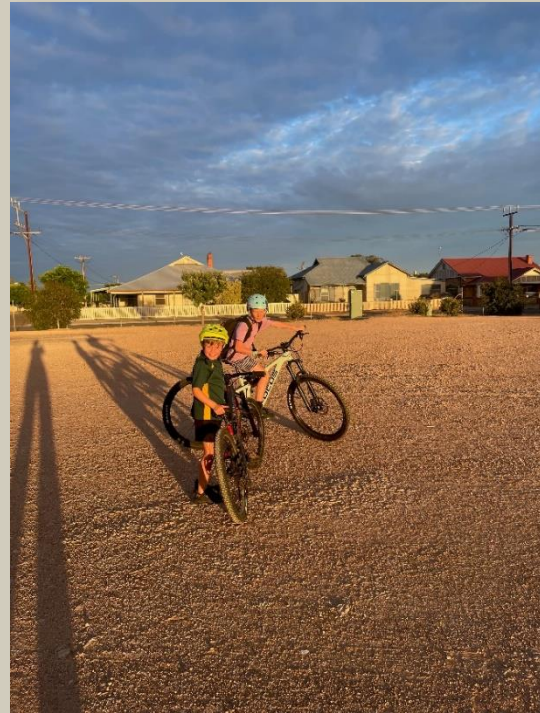
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RURAL GENERALIST PROGRAM

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A day in the life of a
Rural Generalist
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Skye also shared with us some insight into why she made the choice to live and work in a regional area:

“The bigger picture involved a dream of taking these skills rurally at some stage, which has been accomplished with our move to the Eyre Peninsula this year. Now we find ourselves living in a stunning location with so many beautiful beaches and national parks right at our doorstep - endless adventures for our family who love the great outdoors!”

Skye divides her time between Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln. She works in the Tumby Bay Medical clinic and takes part in the on-call roster that looks after inpatients. Within the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network (EFNLHN), Dr Curlis works in the ED and attends to presentations at both the Tumby Bay Hospital and Port Lincoln Hospital and says:

“The clinic has an inspiring team with a strong teaching focus and so I help to provide supervision and teaching to the students and juniors doctors as part of a larger program. I also do regular shifts in the Port Lincoln Emergency Department, working as part of a dedicated and talented staff.”

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Skye was appreciative of the Rural Generalist Program South Australia (RGPSA) for the support in helping her navigate through an unusual training pathway and was able to step in to provide support when she came to any hurdles. Dr Curlis conveyed that she feels lucky to be awarded an RGPSA scholarship which has enabled her to undertake training and covered the cost of the mandatory courses required for her to complete her advanced skills training in Emergency Medicine.

In her opinion, this training is increasingly important to rural communities because you are the first point of call for all health matters and a good grounding in Emergency Medicine is always helpful in General Practice as you are placed on the front line of clinical care. She says by undertaking this training:

“Having the necessary skills to competently manage emergency medicine presentations becomes a core requirement for patient care and can save the community from unnecessary travel with associated costs and inconveniences.”

Dr Curlis states that she honestly doesn't know where to next in her career but feels that the sky is the limit! This is an aspect of General Practice she absolutely adores and an opportunity to forge a career that you want, with seemingly endless possibilities.

On a final note, we asked Skye if she has any amazing advice for trainees that are considering training in rural and/or becoming a rural generalist?



“Take the leap! The experience you gain will never be wasted and you might just discover your calling. From personal experience, I also wish that I mapped out my hospital time in a more logical way – a year of anaesthetics would have been very useful...”

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