

AMA Student Award 2016

Barthurst Island

Beginning of this year, I undertook a 4-week placement in Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst Island, Northern Territory. I spent most of my time at the Julanimawu Health Centre, being involved in the various services provided by the clinic. The AMA bursary significantly contributed to my living expenses that allowed me to freely gain cultural and medical experience, along with supporting the community.

My placement at the Barthurst Island was a phenomenal learning experience, both professionally (in terms of medical knowledge) and for my personal growth. Clinically, my week was very well scheduled with 3 days at the clinic with either conducting parallel consultation with the Senior GP, or assisting the Midwife/Nurses/Aboriginal Health workers. Rest of the week, I used to either accompany one of the specialist clinics, or outreach services (Scabies skin program, Rheumatic Heart Disease and women's health) from Darwin. This gave me an opportunity to not just build on my knowledge of tropical medicine and effective cultural skills but also understand the implications faced by the remote and rural communities.

Furthermore, I also travelled around Barthurst Island (visiting the museum, art center, beaches and talking to the local community members), along with travelling across to Melville Island (with the team of doctors to the Tiwi boarding school located at Pickataramoor). This allowed me to gain some insight into the history and culture. I was also fortunate enough to accompany a couple members of the community during their hunting and fishing trips on the weekends.

My placement at the Barthurst Island on the whole has been an amazing cultural and medical experience, that has contributed towards my professional and personal growth. I have enjoyed every aspect of this placement and highly recommend other medical student to undertake this placement as well. I believe that being able to undertake these rural and remote placements in Australia, is an invaluable learning experience for any student who wants to pursue a career in Rural and remote medicine. AMA NT's grant made this experience even better by taking off the financial stress, and I am very grateful for that.