

GP Registrar in Cummins, Eyre Peninsula at the Lower Eyre Family Practice.

The GP Registrar role in Cummins manages a 10-bed acute hospital, a high and low acuity nursing home, a 2-bed Rural ED, and a busy General Practice clinic – seeing approx. 15 clinic patients a day.

As part of the team of experienced Rural GPs, as well as other registrars and medical students or junior doctors, this work load is shared and collaboration on complex patients is a common part of the week.

A typical day in Cummins starts with morning rounds on our hospital inpatients alongside our team of doctors, followed by a day in the GP clinic. Our patients are generally low to moderate acuity, but working remotely means you develop confidence in recognising when someone needs a higher level of care and arranging retrieval to Adelaide when required. It also means managing complex medical patients through outpatient GP appointments, as getting input or review by specialists can often be tricky. I have learnt to always call and discuss things you're not sure about, as it always helps your decision making.

Our small Emergency Department adds another dimension to the role. On an ordinary day, presentations range from minor injuries and acute illnesses to more significant medical problems. On an extraordinary day, you might find yourself managing major farm trauma or a complex medical emergency, working with the local team to stabilise the patient before retrieval.

Cummins is also a teaching hospital, providing opportunities to work alongside and teach medical students and junior doctors. One of the highlights of my training has been developing my skills in skin cancer medicine and complex surgical procedures. With patients often preferring treatment locally rather than travelling to Adelaide. I have had the opportunity to perform numerous complex excisions and surgical flaps that would be uncommon opportunities in many training practices.

The Cummins community is incredibly welcoming. From fresh eggs, meat, fruit and vegetables left at your doorstep to the strong local sporting culture, you quickly become part of a community that genuinely values its doctors.

A day in Cummins can be anything but predictable. You might start with a ward round, spend the morning managing chronic disease and preventative health in the clinic, perform a complex skin cancer excision after lunch, and finish the day stabilising a seriously injured farmer in the ED before arranging an aeromedical retrieval.

For a GP Registrar looking for position of independence and responsibility, as well as a variety of procedural experience, emergency medicine, teaching opportunities and genuine rural community connection, Cummins offers a training experience that is both challenging and incredibly rewarding.

Dr Isaac Taylor – RVTS Registrar