

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Taroom experiences inspire next generation of nurses**

STAFF at Taroom Hospital are helping to shape the medical careers of a number of visiting students this month.

Three nursing students are receiving a taste of health care in the bush as a part of their university studies.

Kirstylee Blacka from Griffiths University, Jayde Yorkston from the University of Southern Queensland and Cara Higgins from Central Queensland University all agree their nursing careers will benefit from their time in Taroom.

“It’s made me realise this is exactly what I want to be doing,” Ms Blacka said.

“I’ve seen how a good nurse in a rural setting can really make a difference to the communities they are living and working in.”

For Ms Yorkston, the experience has shown her how teamwork forms an important part of rural medicine.

“You really rely on your team members to get the job done,” she said.

“As a student taking part in a placement, I’ve done things you wouldn’t normally get to do in another setting. I’ve taken patients to the airport and helped insert a nasogastric tube.”

Ms Higgins agreed that the diversity of a rural placement could help shape your further career choices.

“It’s been really good experience and it shows how you are exposed to so much in these rural communities,” Ms Higgins said. “Everything from emergencies to day-to-day health care.”

Ms Higgins, who lives in Taroom and is completing her studies via distance education, hopes to use the experiences to make her a better nurse and eventually a midwife.

Taroom Hospital Director of Nursing Greg Hill said the students were not the only ones to benefit from their placements.

“It’s great having students at the hospital,” Mr Hill said.

“They ask questions and force us to be at the top of our game.

“It’s also a good chance to promote ourselves and hopefully encourage a few to come back and start their careers in a rural or remote area.”

The hospital has hosted nursing students before, but this is the first time that it has had three at the one time.

**Caption:** Nursing students (from left) Cara Higgins, Kirstylee Blacka and Jayde Yorkston have enjoyed their time learning more about rural medicine at the Taroom Hospital.

**Ends**

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