The Townsville Hospital and Health Service will welcome 70 graduate doctors next Monday (12 January), strengthening the medical ranks of regional hospitals and health services.

In an innovative approach the Townsville Hospital has partnered with the Mater Hospital, with 10 graduates undergoing their internship on the Mater campus.

Townsville Hospital and Health Service chief executive Julia Squire said she was delighted to welcome the new graduates.

“We’re proud to be training the doctors of the future here in Townsville,” she said.

“As North Queensland’s only tertiary referral hospital, graduates will be provided an unprecedented experience that will benefit our communities and provide great career opportunities for the doctors.

Of the 70 graduates, 28 are home-grown, transitioning from James Cook University.

“This is another step to achieving reflects the Hospital and Health Service Board’s key aim to develop sustainable services and grow our own.

Together with increases in nursing and other health related employment opportunities our young people have great career options ahead of them and our communities will reap the benefits of growing and employing our bright and committed North Queenslanders” she said.

The remaining graduates have been recruited from other Queensland universities, and also from inter-state.

Mrs Squire said interns could be rotated around rural and remote facilities, including Palm Island, Mount Isa and Ingham, and community health services such as Kirwan and North Ward health campuses as well as the Townsville and Mater Hospitals.

“This unique system will provide interns with great experience in both public and private sectors and good future job opportunities” Mrs Squire said.

James Cook University graduate Jessica Little said she was excited to begin her training next week.

“I’ve always had an interest in medicine,” Jessica said.

“I did work experience during high school and ever since then, I’ve been very eager.”
The 24-year-old graduate, who attended local high school, Ryan Catholic College said she was most excited about the independence her internship would provide.

“I’m very much looking forward to starting my medical career in the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and caring for patients” she said.

Ends

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