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Cash for health training program

A NEW rural health training program will bring an extra \$1 million in support for doctors, nurses and allied health staff training across south-west Victoria.

The Deakin University Rural Health Multi-disciplinary Training Program started on May 1 and replaces the former Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health.

The previous program was a joint initiative between Deakin and Flinders universities.

Both universities have now established separate health training programs.

Director of the new Deakin University program, Professor Peter Harvey, said all Victorian staff from the former program were continuing with the new program.

“Doctors, nurses and allied health staff will train in a collaborative manner that reflects how they work in regional communities,” Professor Harvey said.

It is expected the number of student placement weeks will double under the program.

“We have access to \$1 million additional Federal Government funding and aim to provide up to 4000 student placement weeks in hospitals, clinics and health centres, effectively doubling the current number,” Professor Harvey said.

The program will continue in Warrnambool and at this stage is based at the Warrnambool Campus of Deakin University as part of the Deakin University School of Medicine.

“The additional funding will increase our capacity to support students and could include more academics in rural areas to provide training and supervision.

Funding will also be used to subsidise accommodation for students who train in rural areas.

Professor Harvey said the program was continuing to pursue research opportunities, particularly in chronic disease and Aboriginal health where the research has the potential to lead to improved health service delivery in rural communities.