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New Deakin Rural Health head

HEALTH Region

WARRNAMBOOL-BASED Dr Vin Versace has been appointed as the new director of Deakin Rural Health.

Dr Versace said the appointment continued Deakin University's commitment to rural and regional health.

"An appointment based in Warrnambool is a perfect example of the school investing in that commitment," he said. "It's exciting to me personally because it allows me to pursue a meaningful academic career in the part of the world where I enjoy living. It's also a good vote of

confidence for the campus."

Dr Versace has also been appointed as an Associate Professor in Deakin's School of Medicine.

Deakin Rural Health is involved in health research and provides placements in the region for nursing, allied health and medical students.

Dr Versace said he hoped to expand local placement options. "The rationale is that if people in these professions have a rewarding and engaging experience in a rural setting they're far more likely to return to work in a rural setting which will address workforce shortages."

Dean of the School of Medicine, Professor Jon Watson, said Dr Versace was well placed to take Deakin Rural Health into the future.

"Vin has been acting director of Deakin Rural Health since early 2017 and has performed that role with distinction," he said.

"He has a strong vision for Deakin Rural Health, is passionate in his focus on maximising opportunities for rural allied health, medical and nursing student placements in western Victoria, and also strong in his plans for collaboration across the university."