

Single Employer Model (SEM) Pilot Site Profile

Cunnamulla



Figure 1: Roundabout in central Cunnamulla at the junction of Jane St, John St and Emma St



Figure 2: A cyclist stops by the “Cunnamulla Fella” statue in the Cunnamulla town centre on a chilly winter morning.

Opportunity

Cunnamulla offers an exceptional set of experiences for a Rural Generalist registrar. In this area the traditional custodians are the Kunya peoples, although Budjiti, Marriwarri, Kooma, Kullilli, and Mardigan peoples also have claims. These peoples have cared for the land and waterways since remembering began. In Cunnamulla in 2021 44% of the population identified as Aboriginal and 50.4% as Non-Indigenous. The successful applicant will be able to create the experience they seek crafting a balance of placements at Cunnamulla Hospital, Cunnamulla Primary Health Care Centre, The Royal Flying Doctors Service and some time at Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH). This gives rich variety of training in remote medicine, acute medicine, Aboriginal Health, primary health care, population health and retrieval medicine.

GP Clinic / Primary Care Facility

The Cunnamulla Primary Health Care Centre works with the Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH) to promote, maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of local and surrounding communities. It is administered by the South West Hospital and Health Service and doctors work between the Cunnamulla Hospital and the Cunnamulla Primary Health Care Centre. The Primary Health Care Centre works as a general practice.



Figure 3: Cunnamulla Primary Care Centre & Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH)

Hospital Facility

Clinical service profile

Cunnamulla Multipurpose Health Service (referred to in the community as “The Hospital”) is located 56 Wicks St, Cunnamulla. It provides hospital, community and allied health services, and home and community care support, for Cunnamulla and nearby communities.

Within the MPHS emergency, acute inpatient and residential care is provided. There is a permanent Mental Health clinician and an Alcohol and Other Drugs dosing clinic on site.

Visiting clinicians from Charleville provide Allied Health Services, Mental Health services (either face to face or via telehealth), Women’s Health, Palliative Care and Midwifery Services on a regular basis. Oral Health services are provided on outreach from Charleville for eligible patients

The Flying Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (FOG) visits approximately every 6 weeks.

Cunnamulla Aboriginal Health Corporation runs a bus that will transport First Nations people to Charleville or Roma for other specialist appointments.

[Cunnamulla Multipurpose Health Service | South West Hospital and Health Service](#)



Figure 4: Cunnamulla Hospital

Contact

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General practice training

Both the Primary Care Facility and Hospital are accredited training posts with the GP training College/s, therefore your training and supervision is in accordance with the requirements. The South West Hospital and Health Service coordinate regular educational sessions for all Rural Generalist and General Practice registrars in the South West. These sessions are a mixture of virtual and face to face experiences

How the SEM pilot works

South West Hospital and Health Service is keen to craft a unique practice and learning experience to meet the needs of each particular registrar. The South West Hospital and Health Service runs the Cunnamulla Multipurpose Health Service including the Hospital, and Primary Health Care Centre and works closely with the The Royal Flying Doctors Service to deliver services to the surrounding district. The Registrars' training time can be spent proportionally in these services according to the interests of the registrar and the service requirements of the community, remembering that it is expected that the time will be shared between hospital and community settings. There will also be the opportunity to spend some clinical time at Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH.)

Induction/Orientation

Induction and orientation will occur with both the Hospital and GP facility - business processes, site specific inductions, systems and practices to ensure readiness to work in their facilities.

There will also be GP specialist training college requirements relating to education and training, supported by the direct supervisor, that will be completed.

Mobility agreement

Part of the induction to the SEM Pilot requires the GP registrar to complete the agreement, acknowledging the partnership between the HHS and the community health facility in the support and delivery of general practice education, training and assessment.

About

Cunnamulla is a town and a locality in the Shire of Paroo in south west Queensland. It is 206 kilometres south of Charleville, 465 Km south west of Roma the administrative centre of South West Hospital and Health Service and approximately 750 kilometres west of Brisbane. In the 2021 census, the locality of Cunnamulla had a population of 1,233.

The town lies on the [Warrego River](#) in the northern reaches of the Murray–Darling drainage basin. The Warrego flows from Coongoola to the north through Cunnamulla and heads south to Tuen. The course of the Warrego River becomes very important during heavy rains when flooding events are common in the district.

The Mitchell Highway passes through the locality from the north through Coongoola to the south via Tuen. The town lies at the intersection of the Balonne and Mitchell Highways. The Balonne Highway comes from Linden, Bollon, and St George to the east and the Mitchell Highway is the road connecting Cunnamulla and Charleville nearly 200km to the north. The Bulloo Developmental Road heads further west from Cunnamulla and leads to Eulo and Thargomindah. Those with an adventurous streak can follow this road all the way to Innamincka across the South Australian border.

Cunnamulla is the administrative centre for the Paroo Shire, servicing the townships of Wyandra, Yowah and Eulo. It covers an area of 47,617 square kilometres (18,385 sq mi).

Major industries of the area are cattle, sheep and goat farming, along with tourism and opal mining.

Education in Cunnamulla

Cunnamulla P–12 State School is a government primary and secondary (Early Childhood to Year 12) school for boys and girls at 17 Francis Street. In 2017, the school had an enrolment of 98 students with 17 teachers (16 full-time equivalent) and 20 non-teaching staff (14 full-time equivalent).

Sacred Heart Primary School is a Catholic primary (Preparatory to Year 6) school for boys and girls at 46 John Street. In 2017, the school had an enrolment of 84 students with 8 teachers (7 full-time equivalent) and 5 non-teaching staff (4 full-time equivalent).

Family Daycare in Cunnamulla

Gidgee Kids ELC offers long daycare and outside school hour care for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years for Cunnamulla community families.

The Climate in Cunnamulla

Cunnamulla has a hot semi-arid climate with very hot summers and mild winters with occasional frost. Average maximum temperatures range from 36.2 °C in January to 18.9 °C in July.

Annual rainfall is low. This is a dry and sunny environment with annual rainfall averaging 374.8 mm mainly falling in the summer months. Cunnamulla has about 185 clear days and only 68 cloudy days annually.

Extreme temperatures have ranged from 47.2 °C on 3 January 2014 to −2.2 °C on 26 June 1971 and 26 July 1968.

Climate data for Cunnamulla (1879–2024 normals, extremes 1957–2024)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	47.2 (117.0)	45.6 (114.1)	43.3 (109.9)	37.3 (99.1)	32.7 (90.9)	30.4 (86.7)	31.8 (89.2)	36.8 (98.2)	40.7 (105.3)	42.0 (107.6)	45.4 (113.7)	46.2 (115.2)	47.2 (117.0)
Mean daily maximum °C (°F)	36.2 (97.2)	35.0 (95.0)	32.5 (90.5)	28.1 (82.6)	23.0 (73.4)	19.4 (66.9)	18.9 (66.0)	21.5 (70.7)	25.7 (78.3)	29.8 (85.6)	32.9 (91.2)	35.3 (95.5)	28.2 (82.7)
Mean daily minimum °C (°F)	22.4 (72.3)	21.8 (71.2)	19.0 (66.2)	14.3 (57.7)	9.9 (49.8)	6.9 (44.4)	5.8 (42.4)	7.2 (45.0)	10.8 (51.4)	14.9 (58.8)	18.2 (64.8)	20.9 (69.6)	14.3 (57.8)
Record low °C (°F)	13.0 (55.4)	11.5 (52.7)	4.4 (39.9)	4.6 (40.3)	−1.1 (30.0)	−2.2 (28.0)	−2.2 (28.0)	−1.0 (30.2)	2.0 (35.6)	3.3 (37.9)	7.8 (46.0)	11.5 (52.7)	−2.2 (28.0)
Average precipitation m m (inches)	48.2 (1.90)	49.9 (1.96)	41.7 (1.64)	26.5 (1.04)	29.3 (1.15)	25.9 (1.02)	22.5 (0.89)	17.2 (0.68)	18.5 (0.73)	25.5 (1.00)	30.7 (1.21)	38.6 (1.52)	374.8 (14.76)
Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm)	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.0	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.0	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.3	33.8

Average afternoon relative humidity (%)	29	32	32	34	40	44	40	32	26	25	25	24	32
Average dew point °C (°F)	11.8 (53.2)	12.7 (54.9)	10.5 (50.9)	8.3 (46.9)	7.0 (44.6)	5.7 (42.3)	3.5 (38.3)	2.5 (36.5)	2.8 (37.0)	4.5 (40.1)	6.7 (44.1)	8.2 (46.8)	7.0 (44.6)
Source: Bureau of Meteorology (1879–2024 normals, extremes 1957–2024)													

Airport

Rex Airlines runs flights from Cunnamulla to Brisbane, St George, Toowoomba and Thargomindah. See the Rex Airline routes [here](#) and schedules [here](#) Services are operated under contract to the Government of Queensland.

The Airport is located 8 km to the north west of the town and is less than 10 minutes drive from the hospital.

RFDS lands at the Cunnamulla airport for medical retrievals and for FOG clinics.

Sporting Clubs & Community Groups

Cunnamulla offers a large range of Sporting Clubs & Community Groups

Bowls Club, Golf Club, Fishing & Restocking Club, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Junior Cricket Club, Gun Club, Pistol Club, Polocrosse Club, Race Club, Tennis Club, Swimming Club, Run Club, Motorbike Club, Local Gym.

The Social Scene in Cunnamulla

Cunnamulla's social scene revolves around its strong community spirit, with events like the Cunnamulla Fella Roundup Rodeo, the Cunnamulla Show, and live music at Hotel Cunnamulla providing entertainment and social gathering opportunities. The town also has a neighbourhood centre that aims to provide a safe space and activities for young people.

Key social activities and locations:

- **Cunnamulla Fella Roundup Rodeo:** A major annual event featuring various rodeo events and a large prize pool, attracting both locals and visitors.
- **Cunnamulla Show:** A traditional show with events like the motorbike gymkhana, alongside other attractions.
- **Hotel Cunnamulla:** A venue known for its live music, featuring a variety of genres and attracting a mix of locals and tourists.
- **Performing Arts and Community Centre:** A hub for local performances and activities.
- **Cunnamulla Neighbourhood Centre:** Provides support and activities for young people in the community.
- **Artesian Waters:** The new artesian hot springs complex and Charlotte Plains offer opportunities for relaxation and social interaction.

Community Engagement:

- The Cunnamulla & District Show Society Inc. actively seeks community feedback and involvement in planning events.
- Hotel Cunnamulla fosters a sense of community by hosting live music nights and collaborating with local artists.

In essence, while Cunnamulla is a peaceful town, it offers a vibrant social scene through its events and venues that bring the community together.

General Practice Training Incentives

RACGP

Financial incentives are intended to encourage registrars to undertake placements in an area of identified workforce need, and to alleviate the additional cost of relocation. The amount of financial support available is dependent on the band allocated to the [incentivised placement](#) as per the flexible funds policy. This funding is offered in addition to the Nationally Consistent Payments (NCP). More information is available on the [RACGP website](#).

ACRRM

As part of the Queensland Government's \$20 million workforce attraction incentive scheme, Queensland GP registrars commencing training in 2025 and 2026 will be eligible to receive an [incentive payment of \\$40,000](#). More information is available on the [ACRRM website](#).

DoHAC

Australian Government provides fact sheets detailing the incentives available for GPs and general practices in Modified Monash locations. Cunnamulla is Modified Monash Model 7 (very Remote)

Consult the document for available incentives for [MM 7 locations](#)

