

Goondiwindi



Opportunity

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Government

supported environment. The SEM approach at Goondiwindi splits time between Goondiwindi Hospital and Goondiwindi Medical Centre in a week on week off model for continuity and learning opportunities.

GP Clinic / Primary Care Facility

The main GP and primary care clinic in town is Goondiwindi Medical Centre, which offers:

- General practice
- Chronic disease management
- Women's and men's health
- Mental health care
- Skin cancer clinics
- Immunisations
- Child health
- Telehealth
- Pathology and ultrasound
- Aged care support
- WorkCover/injury management

The medical centre works closely with the hospital, and some GPs also provide maternity and hospital services locally. That tends to create more continuity than in some bigger cities where hospital and GP worlds barely speak to each other.

Compared with any remote Queensland towns, Goondiwindi is considered medically fairly well-serviced. It's one of those rural centres where people from smaller surrounding communities often come to Goondiwindi for healthcare.

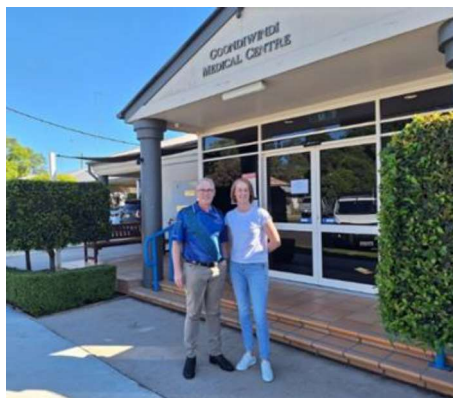


Figure 4: Goondiwindi Medical Centre

Hospital Facility

The main public hospital in Goondiwindi is Goondiwindi Hospital. It is part of the Darling Downs Health network and provides:

- 24/7 emergency care
- General medicine and surgery
- Midwifery and maternity services
- Outpatient clinics
- Visiting specialist services
- Community and allied health services
- Palliative care support

It is a 33-bed rural hospital serving both southern Queensland and nearby northern NSW communities.

For any routine emergencies and admissions, locals can stay in town rather being transferred immediately to Toowoomba or Brisbane. But for major trauma, highly complex surgery or tertiary specialist care, patients are usually transferred onward.



Figure 5: Goondiwindi Hospital

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Clinical service profile

For a town of roughly 6000 people Goondiwindi's medical setup is quite strong by rural Australian standards. A lot of that comes from having both a proper public hospital and a long-established GP clinic that work closely together.

Goondiwindi also has diagnostic imaging services located with the hospital, including:

- X-Ray
- CT
- Ultrasound
- Pregnancy ultrasound

There are also visiting specialists in the areas like:

- Obstetrics/gynaecology
- ENT
- Surgery
- Physician medicine
- paediatrics

There is also diagnostic imaging available through Goondiwindi Diagnostic Imaging, including X-ray, CT and ultrasound services.

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.

How the SEM pilot works

The SEM experience at Goondiwindi is full time 1.0 FTE employed as a Principal House Officer. The 1.0 FTE is split 0.5 FTE at the Goondiwindi Hospital and 0.5 FTE at the Goondiwindi Medical Centre or any other SEM approved general practice in Darling Downs Southern Cluster.

SEM registrars are rostered to set days in general practice each fortnight to ensure continuity and predictability to manage bookings. The hospital roster varies each fortnight with shifts in all areas of the hospital to ensure a blended rural hospital experience. Most hospital shifts will be in emergency and inpatient medicine however there will also be exposure to shifts in maternity, paediatrics, theatre and anaesthetics, and antenatal clinics.

Through discussion, the hospital can support registrars who may still need to fulfill mandatory requirements. Shifts are 9.5 hours in length in both general practice and hospital which works out to be 8 days per fortnight – 76 hours.

Weekly training will be provided to dedicated registrar in person or online. Supervisors are invited to participate in this teaching to provide expert opinion and encourages collaboration in teaching between registrars and supervisors. Registrars will have nominated supervisors at both Kingaroy Hospital and their SEM general practice.

Induction/Orientation

Induction and orientation will occur with both the hospital and general practice and will include information on business processes, site specific inductions, systems, and practices - to ensure readiness to work in each facility.

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

Goondiwindi is a regional border town in southern Queensland, right near the New South Wales border on the Macintyre River. It has a population of roughly 6,000–7,000 people and is known as a major agricultural centre, especially for cotton, grains, cattle, farming services, and transport.

Approximately 4 hours west of Brisbane and 2.5-3 hours from Toowoomba, Goondiwindi is:

- clean and well-kept
- more prosperous than many small rural towns
- strongly community-oriented
- very sports-focused
- family-oriented
- traditionally conservative/rural in culture.

Compared with many outback towns, it feels relatively stable and functional because agriculture around the district is quite productive. The town centre has:

- cafés
- pubs
- supermarkets
- schools
- hospital
- sporting facilities
- basic retail and services.

But it is still unmistakably a country town rather than a regional city.

Lifestyle

People often move there for rural medical work, teaching, agriculture, lower housing costs, quieter family life.

Typical advantages include:

- short commutes
- strong community connections
- affordable housing compared with Brisbane
- active kids' sport culture
- less traffic and stress.

Typical downsides:

- hot summers
- fewer specialist services
- less shopping variety
- fewer entertainment/cultural options
- long distances to major cities.

Climate

The climate is hot inland Queensland:

- very hot summers (often >40°C)
- mild winters
- generally dry
- occasional flooding from the river system.

Reputation in Queensland

Among rural Queensland towns, Goondiwindi has a reputation for being:

- relatively affluent
- organised
- safe
- medically and educationally better serviced than many towns its size.

It is often considered one of the more desirable smaller inland Queensland towns for professionals such as teachers, nurses and rural doctors.

Goondiwindi schools

Goondiwindi has a small but solid mix of government, catholic and independent schools, which is typical for a regional Queensland town.

The main options are:

- Goondiwindi State primary school
Primary school (Prep – Year 6) in the centre of town. It also has a Special Education Program

- Goondiwindi State High School
Main public secondary school (Years 7-12). Around 500 students. Strong rural community focus, sports and agricultural activities
- St Mary's School Goondiwindi (Catholic School)
Catholic co-educational school from Prep to Year 10. Known for smaller class sizes and strong academic results in the region
- Border Rivers Christian College
Independent Christian school established in 2015. Offers combined primary and secondary education. Recently performed strongly in regional Naplan rankings.

Schools in Goondiwindi tend to have smaller class sizes than in Brisbane. Sport, agriculture, music and community activities are important part of school life. Boarding for senior secondary years is sometimes considered by families wanting larger academic or private school options.

- Early childhood
C&K Goondiwindi Kindergarten

Goondiwindi sport clubs

Goondiwindi has a surprisingly active sport scene for a rural town, with strong community participation in rugby, AFL, cricket, netball, golf, swimming and fitness.

Some of the main clubs and facilities include:

- Goondiwindi Rugby Union Football Club
- Goondiwindi Hawks AFC
- Goondiwindi Netball Association
- Goondiwindi Golf Club
- Goondiwindi Council Pool
- Goondiwindi Bowls Club
- Goondiwindi Squash
- PCYC: Basketball, boxing, badminton, table tennis, youth activities and gym
- Hell of the West (triathlon)
- Goondiwindi parkrun
- Goondiwindi motocross club
- Little Athletics Goondiwindi

Goondiwindi shopping

Goondiwindi has a good mix of shopping for a regional town – especially for fashion, rural lifestyle, homeware and everyday essentials. Most shops are concentrated around Marshall Street and Herbert Street in the town centre.

Main shopping area: Waggamba Square with supermarkets and everyday services:

- Coles
- FoodWorks
- Reject Shop
- Gibson Butchery
- Driver 5 Star Supermarket

General Practice Training Incentives

DDHHS

Medical Officers employed by Queensland Health, working in Goondiwindi are eligible for the Inaccessibility Allowance as per Medical Officers Certified Agreement 7. Medical Officers employed by



DDHHS working 0.5 FTE or more are eligible for staff accommodation arrangements or subsidies as per DDHHS' Staff accommodation – Rural Procedure.

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

ACRRM's Flexible Funds, delivered under the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program's National Consistent Payment Framework, is specialised funding managed by the College to ensure Fellowship training and workforce requirements can be supported in rural and remote areas. This mechanism provides consistency, regardless of location. More information is available on the [ACRRM website](#).

Queensland GP Incentive

As part of the Queensland Government's workforce incentive scheme, Queensland GP registrars commencing training in 2025 will be eligible to receive an incentive payment of \$40,000.

Department of Health and Aged Care

Australian Government provides fact sheets detailing the incentives available for GPs and general practices in Modified Monash locations:

- Consult the document for available incentives for [MM 4 locations](#)