

Single Employer Model (SEM) Pilot Site Profile

Atherton



Figure 1: Atherton Tablelands

Opportunity

Nestled in the lush highlands of Tropical North Queensland, the Atherton Tablelands is a vibrant regional area located approximately 80–90 kilometres south-west of Cairns, making it an easy 60–90 minute drive from the city and Cairns International Airport.

Home to approximately 28,000 residents across the Tablelands Regional Council area, the region combines the benefits of rural living with access to modern services, excellent schools, and a strong, welcoming community.

GP Clinic / Primary Care Facility

Alice Street Medical Centre is a well-established, community-focused general practice located in the heart of Atherton. Since 1986, the practice has been an integral part of healthcare delivery across the Atherton Tablelands, providing comprehensive, patient-centred care in a friendly and supportive family practice environment.

The practice is home to an experienced team of General Practitioners who provide a broad range of primary healthcare services, allowing doctors to develop diverse clinical skills while caring for patients across all stages of life. The clinic is committed to delivering high-quality, holistic care and has built strong, long-term relationships within the local community over many years.

For GPs considering a move to the Atherton Tablelands, Alice Street Medical Centre offers the opportunity to practise rewarding rural medicine within a collaborative and supportive team. Doctors enjoy the professional satisfaction of managing a wide variety of presentations, building continuity of care with patients and families, and making a genuine difference in community health outcomes.

Alice Street Medical Centre continues to be a trusted healthcare provider for the Atherton Tablelands community and an attractive destination for doctors seeking both professional fulfilment and an exceptional regional lifestyle.

www.alicestreetmedical.com.au



Figure 2: Alice Street Medical Centre

Contact

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Hospital Facility

Atherton Hospital is the major public hospital serving the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding rural and remote communities across Far North Queensland. Located in Atherton, the facility provides healthcare services not only to local residents but also to communities including Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Ravenshoe, Mount Garnet, Croydon, Forsyth and Georgetown.

Atherton Hospital provides an excellent opportunity to work within a true rural generalist environment. Clinicians are exposed to a diverse and rewarding caseload, with strong collaboration between hospital teams, general practice, visiting specialists and Cairns-based tertiary services. This model enables doctors to practise broad-scope medicine while maintaining access to specialist support when required.

The hospital plays a vital role in supporting healthcare delivery across the Tablelands, offering doctors the chance to make a meaningful impact on the health of rural and remote communities.



Figure 3: Atherton Hospital

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Clinical service profile

Atherton Hospital offers a broad range of services including a 24-hour Emergency Department, inpatient medical and surgical care, maternity services, outpatient clinics, allied health, community health programs and visiting specialist services. The hospital also supports cardiology, paediatrics, oncology, mental health, diabetes education, palliative care, physiotherapy, radiology and obstetric services, allowing patients to access a wide range of healthcare closer to home.

A key feature of the hospital's clinical profile is its strong multidisciplinary model of care. Patients have access to a wide range of allied health services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, speech pathology and social work. Specialist outpatient and visiting services include cardiology, paediatrics, oncology, gastroenterology, diabetes education, mental health, palliative care and nephrology, reducing the need for patients to travel to Cairns for routine specialist care.

Atherton Hospital works closely with Cairns Hospital and tertiary referral services, providing local management of many conditions while facilitating seamless escalation and specialist referral pathways when higher-level care is required. This integrated service model supports safe, high-quality healthcare delivery across the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding rural communities.

For clinicians, the hospital offers exposure to a diverse rural caseload across emergency, inpatient, community and outpatient settings. The breadth of services creates opportunities to practise comprehensive rural medicine, develop advanced clinical skills and contribute meaningfully to the health outcomes of regional and remote population

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 Atherton SEM pilot offers an opportunity for two full-time doctors to work across both Alice Street Medical Centre and Atherton Hospital, providing a rewarding mix of community-based general practice and hospital medicine. Each doctor will work a 38-hour week over four days, with two days based in the GP practice and two days at Atherton Hospital. This innovative model promotes continuity of care across both settings while delivering clinical variety, a well-rounded scope of practice, and a genuine rural generalist experience.

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

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Home to approximately 28,000 residents across the Tablelands Regional Council area, the region combines the benefits of rural living with access to modern services, excellent schools, and a strong, welcoming community.

Renowned for its cooler climate, fertile farmland and stunning natural beauty, the Atherton Tablelands offers an enviable lifestyle surrounded by World Heritage-listed rainforests, pristine volcanic crater lakes, waterfalls and national parks. Popular attractions include Lake Eacham, Lake Barrine, the iconic Millaa Millaa Falls, Curtain Fig Tree, Mount Hypipamee Crater and Tinaroo Dam.

Outside of work, doctors and their families can enjoy a relaxed lifestyle with affordable housing, excellent outdoor recreation, local food and coffee culture, fishing, boating, bushwalking and easy access to both the Great Barrier Reef and the tropical attractions of Cairns. With its combination of professional satisfaction, natural beauty and community connection, the Atherton Tablelands is an outstanding place to live, work and build a rewarding medical career.

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

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](#)