

### **Bert Sadlier**

Hello, my name is Bert Sadlier. I'm an emergency physician and previously the Director of the Emergency Department at Mackay Base Hospital. Currently, I'm the Director of Medical Services in the Mackay Health Service District.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about Mackay Base Hospital. We're undergoing a major redevelopment and over the next few years, our number of beds will double from 163 to 318. With the expansion of services, we will be able to attract new specialists and experienced staff.

We will be welcoming 28 new interns. This will be an opportunity for these interns to come to a hospital undergoing a major expansion and the development of new services.

We know that job security is important to you and we're happy to negotiate two year contracts.

It's now time to meet some current and past interns, and I'd ask you to consider what Mackay Base Hospital and Mackay Health Service District can offer you and your future career.

### **Intern 1**

So I came here as a final year med student for my elective and what attracted me was being able to see a whole variety of conditions. I wanted to do a lot of emergency department training. I did six weeks of that here and was able to see a whole range of things ranging from your normal chest pain, shortness of breath, through to more tropical medicine diseases, so some strange infections, things like box jellyfish stings and the occasional sting ray barb stuck in people as well. And also the fact that it's a smaller place, you get to know the people better, and you get a bit more hands-on experience as well.

### **Intern 2**

Last year when I was an Intern, I think the best thing for me was being so well supported in the smaller hospital. Whenever I needed any kind of help whatsoever, because I knew everybody in the hospital, it was much easier to get everything that I needed.

I was an intern last year as I said, and this year being my second year out, I've been accepted onto the paediatrics training program and I've managed to get a position in paediatrics for the year which is accredited training, which counts towards my paediatric training. I don't think that's an opportunity I would've gotten anywhere else, so I count myself to be very lucky.

In Mackay, you work really closely with consultants so they get to know you quite well and getting onto training programs I think is much easier here. Once you're on a training program, you work very closely with the consultants again, so your educational opportunities are much better. Not only that, you get lots of online training from the larger centres in Brisbane, a lot of consultants from Brisbane come out to Mackay on a regular basis and you spend a lot of one-on-one time working for them, which is useful.

### **Intern 3**

I'm planning on staying in Mackay for the next twelve months, then I'm a rural scholarship holder so I'm planning to go more rural from there. But I really enjoy my time here and I'm planning on staying here as long as I can.

### **Intern 4**

The benefit of doing anaesthetics first was that the opportunities that they gave me, the procedural skills they got you to do, they got you to do a lot of paperwork, I mean that's part of the Intern, but that experience has carried through in my next rotations as well.

### **Consultant**

Simulation is very important to us in Mackay. It gives us the opportunity to put clinicians through experiential learning, gives them the opportunity to see things that they might not ordinarily see.

### **Intern 5**

My partner's here with me and she's pregnant with our first child.

Mackay is excellent. There's lots of things to do around there. There's the beaches, the lifestyle is fantastic. They're getting Sunday trading here in a few months time, which it's the last regional centre to have Sunday trading. Everything else here is really good. Accommodation – the Hospital puts you up for the first three months if you need it, which is fantastic, and it's quite easy to find a house if you need to after that.

### **Intern 2**

I especially love going to the beach and going to cinemas. So everything is here, and not only in Mackay and the surrounding area. We have Airlie Beach very close to it which is a very good tourist spot and I love going there and I feel the social life is wonderful.

### **Intern 1**

I've been visiting Mackay for a few years now and have seen pretty well all there is to see, and I love coming up here. There's some lovely national parks out west of here, and also the ones on the coast as well. Getting out to the islands, plenty of good fishing spots as well. The social life's fantastic, everyone here is extremely friendly and keen to catch up on the weekends, keen to go and play some sport after work as well.

### **Intern 5**

The stand out feature for me is the experience that I've got so far, experience medically with the consultants, the range of what we see – that's definitely my stand out.