



AMA(WA) and WA Health join forces

New bid to **attract overseas doctors to WA**



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Western Australia is a booming State with an exciting future, strong economy, great climate, good education, excellent employment opportunities and wonderful living conditions.

This makes us the envy of other States – even other countries.

For WA to maintain this image it is of paramount importance that we also have good health facilities and well qualified health professionals to care for the people living here.

However, achieving this in many of the State's remote and regional areas has become an increasingly difficult challenge over the last decade with many positions in the health sector left vacant, impacting on the health needs of local communities.

To help increase the focus of attracting doctors to these rural areas of Western Australia, the Australian Medical Association (WA) and the Department of Health in Western Australia have joined forces.

As part of a collaborative arrangement, the partnership will seek to attract appropriately trained doctors to high priority areas – tackling those towns without any form of medical support or which may desperately need additional support.

To achieve this, the two organisations will launch a joint overseas marketing initiative with three key areas of focus:

- **General Practitioners with qualifications recognised by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for long term contracts in rural WA.**
- **Specialists for short or long term placement in both the public or private sector of WA.**
- **Hospital based doctors with 10 or so years of experience for 2-4 year contracts in public hospitals in Western Australia**

The AMA (WA) will be responsible for undertaking the general recruitment activity of the initiative while WA Health will guide the Association in determining key areas of need and support where appropriate.

By using the combined resources and expertise of both organisations, the partnership hopes to make a difference for many rural communities who have struggled to cope without a doctor – or without adequate numbers of medical practitioners.

Both organisations will fund the initiative through standard arrangements; the AMA (WA) through recruitment fees for successful placements with the private sector or with the local hospital.

Where funding is available through either State or Federal Government programs, this assistance will be sought on behalf of doctors and the community.

