

Note: The StAMPS candidate is to place themselves in the role of the senior doctor (FACRRM) in town and leads both the general practice medical centre and local hospital.

All doctors are on call 1 in 4 for both first and second call. The StAMPS candidate also performs regular outreach clinics in the local Aboriginal communities and provides medical care to the Residential Aged Care Facility. Telephone specialist backup is always available including a video Telehealth facility at the hospital.

Demographics and geography

- Central Australian inland town
- District population = 4000 in town, 6000 in surrounding region
- 35% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Male: Female ratio = 1:1
- Age <16 = 24%; age >55 = 20%
- Two Aboriginal communities (one 75km away, population of ~300, the other 180km away, population of ~200)
- Open grass plains with scattered cattle stations, gold, copper, zinc and coal mines, and citrus, grain and cotton farms
- District prone to grassland fires and seasonal flooding

General practice medical centre

- The medical centre is located adjacent to the hospital
- Privately run (Medicare billing) with a practice nurse and two receptionists
- 3 consultation rooms and 1 treatment room

Local hospital

- 24 general inpatient beds
- Emergency Department (ED):
 - operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
 - 1 resuscitation room
 - 4 acute bays
 - 1 paediatric-only treatment area
 - 1 plaster room
 - 1 eye/gynaecology examination room
 - 1 mental health secure room
 - No negative pressure rooms
- 2 operating theatres, used by visiting general surgery, endoscopy and O&G services

Residential aged care facility

- Run by not-for-profit organization
- Walking distance from the hospital
- 32 aged care residents
- Provides low-level and high-level residential aged care
- Has contractual arrangements in place for allied health practitioners to review patients monthly

Outreach clinics at two Aboriginal communities

- Each Aboriginal community clinic is staffed by 2 Remote Area Nurses and 2 Aboriginal Health Workers who live permanently in the community
- Clinics are open Monday-Friday 09:00-17:00 with “call out” for emergencies only
- Basic point of care tests available including urine dipstick/HCG, HbA1c, ECG
- No X-ray capability
- Once a week, the senior doctor (the StAMPS candidate) provides outreach clinics in these communities

Medical team:

- 1 senior medical officer (who is the StAMPS candidate)
- 1 GP anaesthetist
- 1 other non-procedural GP
- 1 final year ACRRM registrar (directly supervised by the senior doctor)
- 2 final year medical students (capable of functioning as “pre-interns”)
- No resident medical officers/house officers

Nursing Team:

- 1 director of nursing
- 25 registered nurses (a few also have training and registration as midwives but not employed as such)
- 20 enrolled nurses and assistants in nursing
- CNCs in Child Health, Palliative Care and Wound Care

Radiology:

- 2 radiographers based at the hospital staffed in office hours with after hours on-call roster for urgent imaging requests
- Capable of plain radiographs: chest, abdomen, pelvis, spine and extremities
- Reporting is contracted to a private tele-radiology service
- CT/MRI not available
- 1x part-time sonographer works three times a week. No afterhours sonography service

Pathology and Blood Bank

- Point of care pathology available in ED:
 - Biochemistry = Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Bicarbonate, Ionized Calcium, Glucose, Urea, Creatinine
 - Urinalysis/HCG
 - Haematology = Haematocrit, Haemoglobin
 - Blood Gases = pH, pCO₂, pO₂, TCO₂, HCO₃⁻, Base Excess, sO₂, Lactate
 - Coagulation = INR
 - Cardiac markers = Troponin-I
- Samples for formal blood tests are sent to the regional laboratory by courier three times per week (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
- 4 units of O-neg packed red blood cells are kept in pathology and replenished by the regional hospital blood bank. No other refrigerated blood products are available
- A limited supply of RiaSTAP (human fibrinogen concentrate) is available
- A limited supply of antivenom

Allied Health Team:

- 1 Aboriginal liaison officer
- 1 Physiotherapy
- 1 Pharmacy + 1 pharmacy assistant
- 3 Mental Health clinicians
- 1 Social worker
- 1 Diabetes Educator
- Drug and Alcohol outreach from regional centre
- Aged Care Assessment Team outreach from regional centre

Emergency transport services

- 24/7 ambulance services staffed by professional paramedics with assistance from volunteer drivers
- Sealed and electrically lit runway for aeromedical retrieval aircraft, based 900km away (90 minutes flying time); no helicopter service

Regional hospital 295km away

- Core specialties including Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, ENT, Ophthalmology, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Intensive Care Unit. Medium level Neonatal Nursery care, Haemodialysis unit; Has 24 hour pathology and CT scanner

Tertiary hospital 890km away

- All specialties including burns, high level neonatal intensive care and interventional cardiology

Local Services

- Hospital outpatient services include allied health clinics, wound management, diabetic education
- Antenatal care is provided by the General Practice. No birthing service is available in town and mothers with low-risk pregnancies are advised to travel to the regional centre from 37 weeks of gestation
- Community health services include immunisation clinics, school health, child health, parent craft, women's health, men's health, palliative care, aged care assessment, drug and alcohol services
- Visiting paediatrics, cardiology, endocrinology, general surgery, O&G (each monthly)
- Sleep studies and cardiac investigations except for exercise stress tests are only available in regional centre
- Weekly visiting private occupational therapy, dentist, optometrist, speech therapist, psychologist, audiologist, dietitian and podiatrist
- Mental health service includes telehealth consultations with psychiatrist, visiting psychologist and a local mental health clinician team
- Portable bedside ultrasound machine with three probes: cardiac (1-5MHz), abdominal (2-5MHz) and linear (12-15MHz)
- Video Telehealth infrastructure present at the hospital inclusive of the resuscitation bay in ED
- Equipment available between hospital and medical centre includes full monitoring (including capnography, arterial line, central venous pressure), ECG, slit lamp, spirometry, audiometer, tympanometry, dermatoscope, liquid nitrogen, plaster tools and cardiocotograph, video laryngoscope, Bier's block tourniquet, Oxylog 3000 ventilator, Lifepak 20 manual defibrillator, blood warmer and rapid infuser