

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service - Eastern Health Rural Rotation



Intern Program (BRHS & EH)

Twenty-five Interns matched to Eastern Health will have an opportunity to go to Bairnsdale Regional Health Service (BRHS) as part of the Intern Program across Bairnsdale Regional Health Service and Eastern Health.

The Bairnsdale Regional Hospital rotations for Eastern Health Interns are:

- Emergency Department x 2 Interns
- General Medicine x 2 Interns
- General Surgery x 1 Intern

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service (BRHS)

BRHS provides services including comprehensive primary care, acute care, aged care, community and home-based health services to a growing population of over 45,000 people across a land mass of 21,000 square kilometres.

- **Tambo ward** is a new combined acute medical/surgical bed ward with 33 beds, incorporating a 3 bed High Dependency Unit
- **Rotamah ward** is a 17-bed diverse unit comprising of maternity, paediatric, palliative and general medical patients.
- **Flanagan ward** is a 20-bed rehabilitation ward with rehabilitation, geriatric evaluation, 2 transition care program beds and 1 AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) withdrawal bed.

BRHS provides the opportunity for Interns to practice Medicine (over 16,000 patient admissions per year) in an environment where they can experience 'hands on' medicine in a breadth and depth of situations not always possible in a metropolitan environment.

BRHS, due to its geographical distance to Melbourne, is Victoria's largest user of ARV (Adult Retrieval Victoria).

Interns who are completing the Emergency Department rotation will gain experience in stabilisation/retrieval medicine, in addition to managing the presentations of the 24,000 patients who attend the ED each year.

The General Medicine rotation at BRHS provide Interns with the opportunity to manage patients of varying acuity levels under the management of the local GP VMO (Visiting GP's), as well as the BRHS Physicians. This provides great exposure to a unique model of hospital care; and highly beneficial for those interns considering General Practice or Rural Generalist Practice as a career.

The surgical rotation allows interns to experience surgical patient management on the ward, as well as pre-admission clinic duties, and active involvement in theatre with rostered two half days every week. Two operating theatres at BRHS run full time; with General Surgery as well as visiting specialists conducting Vascular, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmologic, Urological, Gastroenterological, Gynaecological and Obstetric surgeries plus more.

The accommodation for Interns at Bairnsdale is new and modern and is situated opposite the Hospital making it literally a 1-minute walk across the road to work!

In Bairnsdale, you are only 30 minutes away from the beaches and ocean with the likes of the stunning Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, and Metung at your doorstep and just 2 hours from the ski fields of Mt Hotham in winter.

At BRHS you will find a welcoming, collegiate hospital which will provide you with a wealth of experiences to commence your medical career!

Annual Bairnsdale Intern Survey

Eastern Health Postgraduate Medical Education Unit undertakes regular annual, voluntary, electronic surveys to gain feedback from Interns regarding all their rotations, including to BRHS. A rural rotation can provide many opportunities and challenges for Interns, but most junior doctors are very positive about the experience.

Here are some Intern responses from 2025 and 2026, for Interns who have rotated to Bairnsdale;

"Gen med was a supportive environment with plenty of opportunities to develop your skills. Also, a fantastic rotation for anyone interested in GP. Plus, the perks of being in East Gipps!"

Dr Jerry Luo (Term 1, 2026)

"An incredible experience where you will undergo accelerated development as a doctor. Lots of fun exploring the beautiful Gippsland region and having the time to socialise with friends daily."

Dr Julia Goh (Terms 1 & 2, 2026)

"My rural rotation at BRHS was a highlight of my intern rotations—I enjoyed it so much that I swapped to return for an additional term. The experience across general medicine and ED provided excellent hands-on experience, broad clinical exposure with a great supportive team environment."

Dr Claire Preston (Terms 1 & 4, 2025)

"BRHS General Surgery was one of the most memorable rotations of internship because of the friends I made along the way. The community is lovely and there are many weekly sports, wineries and other tourism hotspots in the East Gippsland area to explore. It's a must do rotation!"

Dr Rafael Cheung (Term 5, 2025)