

# GP training in the Central West region

Central West Health Hospital services include accident and emergency, inpatient care, general and elective surgery, medical imaging and maternity services. Other healthcare services include a range of community and primary healthcare services such as immunisation, child and maternal health, chronic disease, allied health and mental health services.

The model of service delivery is based on five hospital hubs in Alpha, Barcaldine, Blackall, Longreach and Winton with satellite primary health clinics at Aramac, Bedourie, Birdsville, Boulia, Isisford, Jericho, Jundah, Muttaborra, Tambo and Windorah.

Region-wide services for child and maternal health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and chronic disease management, together with a range of allied health and community health services are based in Longreach and other service hubs.

Central West Health's doctors also work in general practices across the region under contract arrangements to deliver an integrated approach to primary and acute healthcare.

Central West Health's strategic plan was developed following consultation with local communities, councils and healthcare partners, aiming to sustain quality health services in remote Queensland and to improve access to specialist care for our residents.

The plan aligned with the former government's blueprint for better health and the government's objectives for the community to revitalise frontline services, invest in effective planning and infrastructure, realise value for money and increase transparency for performance.



## Lifestyle



The Central West is the heart of Outback Queensland, a place built by pioneers and stockmen.



Embrace the country lifestyle with Central West's wide open skies, breathtaking landscapes and warm, dry climate.



Adventure through rolling red grasslands aboard a multi-day coach, on a 4WD tour, train or plane to the birthplace of Qantas and Waltzing Matilda in Outback Queensland's Central West.



Watch the sun set over Big Red, the tallest sand dune in the Simpson Desert or spend an unforgettable day with family and friends at the Birdsville billabong.



Swim, kayak, water-ski or cruise the Thomson River or fish for yellow belly and red claw crayfish under the red river gums.



## Attractions

### Thomson River, Longreach

The Thomson River is located approximately four and a half kilometres north west of Longreach, along the Landsborough Highway heading to Winton.

The river offers perfect camping spots along its banks, walking tracks and is also home to a number of species of fish, turtles and yabbies.

For those with boats, an easy-to-access boat ramp is available next to the designated caravan grounds for a perfect day of water-skiing, swimming and fishing.

### Bouli Camel Races

As the camels come hurtling down the track through the plume of red dust, you'll have one of those "this is epic" moments.

It's the Melbourne Cup of camel racing - the longest camel race in Australia (running a 1.5km cup final) and also offers a rich prize pool in the professional camel races circuit.

It's an outback adventure, in the land of the legendary Min Min Light, sharing extraordinary events with a bunch of new friends.

Beyond the camel races you'll find live entertainment, yabby races, the hilarious camel tagging & sheep tagging competitions, markets, food, fireworks, children's amusements and a host of novelty races.

### Birdsville Races

Deep in the heart of wild and isolated country, Birdsville is situated between the eastern edge of the Simpson Desert, the vast gibber plains of Sturt's Stony Desert to the south and rich Channel Country to the north.

Birdsville's busiest week of the year occurs in September. Visitors converge in the tiny outback town from all parts of Australia and the world on the first Saturday in September for the Annual Birdsville Racing Carnival held over two days (Friday and Saturday).

Crowds of over 6000 racegoers celebrate the carnival each year enjoying two days of quality outback racing and three great nights of live entertainment.



### Australia's Dinosaur Trail

Walk where the big fellas walked on Australia's dinosaur trail, through the towns of Richmond, Hughenden and Winton.

Be transported back 120 million years at Kronosaurus Korner in Richmond, when Queensland was covered by an inland sea and underwater giants ruled its interior.

Visit the Lark Quarry Dinosaur Trackways near Winton, where you can see the dinosaur footprints which inspired the stampede in Stephen Spielberg's movie 'Jurassic Park'.

### Winton

Home to Qantas, the country town is also abundant with boulder opals and jewellery stores. The main event is Winton's Way Out West country music festival held in April. The six day festival is a celebration of Australian music bringing 6000 visitors to the region every year.

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It didn't take too long for me to fall in love with this little country town which has a strong community focus and offers a quiet and relaxed outback lifestyle ideal for those who want to experience a close-knit community. The central west health district is very supportive of the trainees and operates on a unique model.

*Dr Vijay Akkineni* ”  
*JCU GP Registrar, Blackall*

