

Embrace the opportunity and
experience a great start?



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A friendly town near the sea with a great health service

Whyalla is situated on the Spencer Gulf, where the Outback meets the sea. Boasting more than 300 days of sunshine a year, an interesting history, a beautiful foreshore, cafes and restaurants, this is a great place to both live and work.

The Whyalla Hospital and Health Service provides a wide range of services utilising local general practitioners, resident specialists, visiting specialists and telemedicine for locals and people in the surrounding areas.

Lerissa – Physiotherapist Whyalla Hospital and Health Services

New Zealander Lerissa finished her physio studies in 2010 and worked for 18-months in her home country before taking up a three-month position at Whyalla Hospital and Health Service. Lerissa stayed on and has now been working at the hospital for 15 months. She is currently Acting Physiotherapy Coordinator.

Lerissa was attracted to the position because Whyalla is close to the beach and reminded her of a small New Zealand township. She is committed to staying in Whyalla because she loves her work and has a partner from the town.

A good close multi-disciplinary team

"I really enjoy working for Country Health SA in Whyalla because we have a good close multi-disciplinary team who works together to get the best patient outcomes," Lerissa said.

"We are not just limited to one area. My career plan is to stay in Whyalla and to undertake some post-graduate study in women's health. That is something that I've become interested in and have developed a passion for while I have been in this job. I am already doing some courses in the area to help upskill myself."

Lerissa enjoys the variety in her work. "No day is ever the same," she said.

"I really think we have a lot more hands-on experience here than in metropolitan areas. I can see patients from paediatrics through to older people."

Lerissa also appreciates the camaraderie within her team. "The team is really stable and I enjoy working with them – it's the best!" she said.

"I would recommend other physiotherapists experience it for themselves."

Lerissa says Whyalla is both small and friendly. She's met plenty of people through playing sports.

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Lauren – Registered Nurse

Whyalla Hospital and Health Service

Registered nurse Lauren, who works in Perioperative Nursing (theatre), completed her final year university placement at the Whyalla Hospital and hasn't looked back.

"I really like working at the Whyalla Hospital because it's a good sized hospital – it's a regional centre," she said.

"It is easy to commute to work - it only takes five minutes. The shopping is good for a town of this size and it's by the beach, which I love."

Lauren's partner moved to Whyalla with her and has found work locally in construction.

The couple enjoy the Whyalla lifestyle and have decided to stay because of the friendliness of the local people and the ease of making friends through work.

A broader exposure to a variety of specialties

Lauren feels she has gained broader exposure to a variety of specialties compared with her university friends working in the metropolitan area. She has also enjoyed many training opportunities.

"I feel like there is less competition for positions compared to metro," she said. "Once you have a job in the country, there are more opportunities to expand your career. I think you get exposure to a lot of broad experiences."

Lauren never gets bored at work. "You don't just have to work in one area of nursing - there are lots of opportunities to study or to specialise," she said.

Lauren really felt supported when she moved to Whyalla and this is a key reason why she is enjoying her work

"The support you get in Whyalla is amazing – it's a great program," she said. "The orientation here is awesome as you get the chance to rotate in a few areas and each time you start in a new area you get lots of support."

No day is the same for Lauren. "In the country, you are not restricted to just one area of nursing – you get to cover all areas including recovery, admissions, day surgery and so on," she said. "I really love the variety."

Early on, Lauren benefited from the support offered to her by a graduate who did her placement in the previous year. "That was really helpful as she had been through it and was a mentor for me," she said. "There are also lots of young graduates – so there are lots of people to hang out with."

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