



## Doctor

### What does a Doctor do?

There are different sorts of Doctors but the main job is to look after patients when they are sick to try to make them healthy again and keep them healthy.

A general doctor like a General Practitioner (“GP”) for example, in the bush, tries to provide complete care for all of their patients. This can be from looking after all their urgent acute needs for example when they have simple things like a cut or a cold; looking after them for a check-up for example a blood pressure or heart check-up; looking after them when they have a illness needing long-term care and medicine such as diabetes; talking to and counselling for mental health needs; right through to when patients are really sick and need emergency care and need evacuation to go to hospital.

These GPs usually work with a team especially with Aboriginal Health workers and Remote area nurses. The GP often supports and teaches to pass on their skills to the others in the team. The “bigger team” is the whole community and the doctor works with and takes direction from community groups and representative bodies to try to make the whole community healthy - sometimes helping the community plan how to achieve good health for everyone (big picture).

**A Specialist doctor** learns very much about one area in medicine or about one part of the body like the eye or bones, for example, so that they can hopefully fix anything wrong a person might have with that particular part of the body. They often have special names eg. eye doctor is an Ophthalmologist. They often work in hospitals.

### What training can you do in the NT to become a Doctor?

This means about 5 or 6 years of study in university and hospitals as an undergraduate medical student to get a medical degree – much of this study can now be done in the NT. Then depending on what sort of doctor you want to become then another one or two years in hospital then 4 to 6 years to complete either GP training, Rural Doctor Training or Specialist training. There are special schemes for Aboriginal doctors to help them if they have to travel and study away from family at times.

### Many doctors are still needed in the bush!

### Salary

Salaries in the NT public system are in accordance to the professional scale.

Link to Office Commission Public Employment for current Salary Scales:

[http://www.nt.gov.au/ocpe/public\\_sector/rates-of-pay/general.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/ocpe/public_sector/rates-of-pay/general.pdf)

### For more information please contact:

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