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MEDIA RELEASE

A new generation of doctors and nurses started their medical careers at the Wimmera Health Care Group this week.

An excited group of 12 interns and eight graduate nurses enjoyed their first day on Monday.

Director of Medical Services Professor Alan Wolff said the 12 interns were employed by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and as part of an agreement with the Royal Melbourne, the interns would spend the next 10 weeks on rotation at the Wimmera Base Hospital.

"The 12 month intern program is very important and being in a range of medical locations during that time helps broaden their skills," Prof Wolff said.

"We are very happy to have them here and they will experience a range of medical areas such as the emergency department, general practise, surgery, and obstetrics while they are here.

"And we want them to really enjoy their time here so when they are fully registered and have completed all their training programs, they want to come back here and bring those skills with them."

One of the interns, Dr Anneliese Willems said she was eager to start using the skills she had acquired after six years of study.

"It is so exciting to think we will now actually be able to start putting what we have learnt into practise," Dr Willems said.

"And I am from a country town myself so I am looking forward to getting to know the community while I am here."

The Wimmera Health Care Group will take on five lots of interns this year.

Wimmera Health Care Group graduate nursing program co-ordinator Bernie Taylor said eight graduate nurses would spend the next 12 months at the hospital.

She said another two graduate nurses would start in May.

"These nurses are the next generation and they need to get a good grounding," Mrs Taylor said.

“We are really excited to offer them that start in their careers.”

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