

Is it possible for a health professional living on the Gold Coast to win the National Rural Health Alliance's Photo and Poetry Competition?

Amanda Griffiths, founder of My Health Career, has lodged two entries for the National Rural Health Alliance's (NRHA) Photo and Poetry competition even though she wasn't sure she met the entry criteria.

Amanda said she put her entries in hoping that they would be featured during judging at the National Rural Health Alliance conference in March 2019 as a way of recognising the services provided by locum health professionals in rural and regional Australia.

"Demand for health services in regional areas is very high, and often people come in for care with highly complex clinical presentations. This is the case not just in terms of optometry, but health care in general. Over the 3 years I've been a locum optometrist in regional Australia, my scope of practice has expanded significantly, and I have gradually been getting more and more adventurous with the locations I visit in terms of either remoteness or lack of support services," said Amanda.

"I think that encouraging health practitioners in allied health, medicine and nursing to locum in regional areas is a valuable way of increasing the permanent workforce in regional Australia as it has certainly made me think seriously about a move to the country at some point in my career," said Amanda.

"Technically as a locum optometrist living on the Gold Coast and flying to work in regional towns throughout Australia I'm not sure that I really qualify to enter the NRHA competition, but just couldn't help myself!

The National Rural Health Alliance's Photo and Poetry Competitions are open to all members of the rural and health community.

I ended up putting in two entries.

The first was of the magnificent fog that hangs over the Manning River in Taree in New South Wales in the mornings, and the second was from a day trip I did flying over Beagle Bay in Western Australia during a locum trip to Broome."

"There is something magical about the way that fog hangs on the river in Taree. I've never seen anything like it in any of the other regional towns I've visited. And that includes Grafton where I grew up, which is known for its stunning river, the Clarence," Amanda said.

For Amanda, Broome was simply love at first sight.

"On the plane on descent into Broome I had tears in my eyes because I'd never seen dirt that red, sand that white and water that blue. I was absolutely overwhelmed by the beauty. It took me 3 full days to comprehend the exquisiteness of Cable Beach. But it was Beagle Bay that stole my heart," said Amanda.

The National Rural Health Alliance Photographic Competition and Poetry Competition is open until 15th February 2019. <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/activities>. Entry forms can be downloaded here: <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sites/default/files/Friends-PPC-Entry-Form-2019.pdf>. Judging will take place at the 15th National Rural Health Conference in March 2019.

Amanda's photos can be downloaded: https://1drv.ms/f/s!AhhgZ_ZH1Dingr0MF-qMGwxJLzeA4A

To arrange an interview, contact Amanda Griffiths from My Health Career.

Mobile 0422 611 533

Email: amanda@myhealthcareer.com.au