

APPLICATION

Andrew Dent Student Scholarship

Committed to
improving health
services and medical
education resources in
the Pacific Region

Student Name:	Dawoud AlMekhled	Telephone::	+61437034270
Address:	21 Kalimna St, Essendon, VIC, 3040	Institution, Course, Year	University of Melbourne, Doctor of Medicine, 2024
Email:	<i>dalmekhled@student.unimelb.edu.au</i>		

Purpose of travel:	Elective Clinical Placement		
Proposed Destination:	Honiara, Solomon Islands		
Institution:	National Referral Hospital	Contact person / local supervisor	Dr. Janella Solomon – Jsolomon@nrh.gov.sb Dr. Rooney Jagilla Rjagilly@nrh.gov.sb
Intended activities	Shadowing surgical consultants & registrars when performing key operations in the hospital Assisting where possible in surgical operations & clinical follow-up Attending to ward rounds with the doctors Shadowing doctors during outpatient clinical follow-up with patients	Intended dates and length of stay	06/01/2025 – 24/01/2025
Follow-up	Elective Assessment Report & If successful, student-written clinical summary outlining the experience as part of the Andrew Dent Scholarship		

Proposed budget: (Subtract or add any items from the suggestions here. You can also outline any in-kind resources available including committed and expected)

Item Description (suggestions)	Costs	Funds required	Total (AUD or international currency, please specify)
Transport- international travel	\$1462	\$1000	
Transport- domestic travel			
Per diems, living expenses, accommodation	\$1000	\$1500	
Costs associated with travel eg insurance, visa, medical	\$0	\$0	
Costs associated with training eg stationery, books, data	\$0	\$0	
Total:		\$2500	

General Description of project (around 500 words):

Please include your motivation behind the proposed trip and the aims of the placement. Describe the perceived benefits and possible outcomes of the project in both the long and short term. Feel free to include any other relevant information that can enhance an understanding of the project.

I am excited to be submitting my application for the Andrew Dent Scholarship to support me as I undertake an elective clinical placement at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands. As a medical student who has undertaken the bulk of his basic clinical training in metropolitan Melbourne, I have sought additional opportunities where I could expand my clinical experiences beyond metropolitan healthcare settings, for instance undertaking my general practice rotation at an Aboriginal Cooperative in the Rural City of Ararat and partaking in PANGEA Global Health's annual visits to Malawi as a student-volunteer. These experiences have provided a far more valuable insight into how varied and different healthcare systems operate in different contexts, even within the same state, let alone different countries. In addition, these experiences have instilled within me an appreciation for how different health outcomes occur based on the population and the healthcare system. To achieve equity and advance healthcare for all, it is imperative to understand the system that serves the population and as such, I am motivated to pursue this proposed trip to further understand what healthcare systems exist in the world and what I as a future medical professional can contribute to ensure equity and distributive justice for all. Therefore, the aims of this placement are ***to gain an appreciation of the local healthcare system in the Solomon Islands, to understand what the common surgical presentations to the National Referral Hospital in Honiara are, to engage with local surgeons and the communities they serve, and to assist in surgical operations (where appropriate). Finally, I hope to also gain a context-dependent appreciation of public health principles in the Solomon Islands.*** The benefits of this placement are first and foremost a culturally sensitive and clinically supervised immersion into healthcare in the Solomon Islands, of which will yield a unique learning & cultural experience. Secondly, being afforded the opportunity to observe and shadow doctors interacting with Pasifika patients will equip me with the cultural repertoire to build a strong rapport with Pasifika patients as a fourth-year medical student and well into my career as a medical professional. Whilst the benefits of this placement are vast, these are the top benefits that I foresee for myself. In the short-term, possible outcomes that may arise include an expanded network of global medical professionals with whom I can foster lifelong connections with, increased confidence in cross-cultural communication, greater opportunities to engage with local medicine, and greater clinical knowledge. In the long-term, possible outcomes include increased research opportunities through my expression of interest to conduct clinical audits or engage in local research projects if available as well as regular communication with local doctors and surgeons to facilitate regular visits once I am qualified as a doctor.

Please include any documentary evidence supporting your travel

Contact details and applications:

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www.stvpacifichealth.org

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