

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Rural Clinical School student addresses global audience on health effects of climate change

University of Tasmania fifth-year medical student Alice McGushin will run a three-day global health workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, starting on Friday (February 27).

Originally from Queenstown and now living at Somerset, it's a long way from Tasmania's North-West Coast, but the outstanding trainee doctor, who is completing the final two years of her degree in Medicine at the Rural Clinical School in Burnie, is passionate about being a leader of change to address health concerns arising from global warming.

Alice is running the workshop as part of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) pre-General Assembly program.

The workshop will have about 25 participants with medical students from all over the world, including Turkey, Canada, Japan, Denmark, Poland, Kenya, Kazakhstan and Algeria.

Participants in Alice's workshop will be learning about the health effects of climate change and the health co-benefits of action on climate change, climate change politics and the role of the medical profession.

"Medical students and doctors world-wide recognise climate change as a major threat to global health and an issue that requires urgent action," said Alice.

"In the lead-up to achieving a new universal agreement on action on climate change in Paris this year, a key focus for the workshop will be to explore how medical students from around the world can promote effective leadership from their respective governments and how they themselves can be leaders of change."

Alice will then join a delegation of 17 Australian medical students to participate in the IFMSA General Assembly in Antalya, Turkey.

Clinical Medical Education advisor at the Rural Clinical School Dr Nick Towle said that it was wonderful to see a local student on the international stage.

"Many of our students are deeply committed to addressing national and global health challenges and we can be justifiably proud of the contributions they make," he said.

"Alice is an inspiration to many of her peers and clinical school staff and we are very supportive of her in pursuing this international leadership opportunity.

"This reflects the broad ethos of the University in supporting students to become leaders in addressing challenges of national and international significance."

The IFMSA represents more than 1.2 million medical students from more than 100 different countries.

Eight hundred delegates from around the world will attend the General Assembly from March 2-8.

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