

CSU students helping fill a need

CSU students are helping fill a need by doing basic dentistry in regional clinics which means patients in Wagga Wagga on a waitlist can access the services by CSU students at a reduced cost. There is a CSU oral health program in Wagga Wagga and a dental program in Orange. CSU clinics are also located in other NSW regional towns. This spreads out the student experiences of different clinics, different patients and local general dentists who tutor them.

"Although specialist treatment is not available at CSU student clinics, treatment options such as preventive dentistry, cleans, restorations, extractions, dentures, night guards, mouthguards, crowns and bridges are available, to those patients who simply cannot afford to see a private dentist," she said.

"Patients often travel two hours to the student clinic, and they are very grateful for the treatment they have received. This then equates to a positive experience for both the patients and the students."

The traditional dinner

Dr Slater is renowned for putting on a customary dinner that has become a wonderful tradition at her home for final year students twice a year.

This has been particularly comforting for international students who may not have been back home since COVID-19 started.

"This is a highlight to be able to host them for a home-cooked meal," she said. "One student said my favourite memory of Wagga Wagga was your slow cooked lamb, he said 'I can still smell it'!"

"It is a privilege to learn alongside them on Friday in clinic, and support them as they grow into capable, considered and caring clinicians over the teaching year."



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