

6 October 2015

COMMUNITY RESIDENCY PROGRAM AIDS GROWTH IN COMMUNITY CARE SECTOR

Through its expanded Community Residency Program, not-for-profit community health and social care provider, Silver Chain, is set to offer more junior doctors with community-based training, helping to create a medical workforce that supports community-based care programs as hospital substitutes.

Silver Chain was selected by WA Health to deliver community-based Registered Medical Officer (RMO) training in 2016. The organisation will offer 12 RMO positions, rotating five times in the year, which will ensure 60 junior doctors have a greater understanding of community care.

Silver Chain Acting Chief Executive Officer, David Ligovich, said as Australia's largest provider of community-based palliative care and one of the largest providers of Home Hospital services, Silver Chain will provide RMO's with a rich and diverse experience of medical care in the community.

"Many doctors trained in Australia receive minimal community exposure. This leads to a lack of familiarity with community care programs, which can undermine the proven outcomes of community-based hospital avoidance and substitution programs," Mr Ligovich explained.

"Silver Chain believes that medical education offers a compelling opportunity to raise awareness of the value of community-based care. Training junior doctors within the community will create the foundations for scalable, sustainable community alternatives to hospital based care."

Community care allows patients to receive care in their home, rather than in the hospital setting, which has not only been proved to provide better patient outcomes but also a significant financial benefit for the Western Australian health sector,

"Creating a medical workforce supportive of and willing to participate in community-based hospital substitution and avoidance programs, will allow for more people to access the care they need in their place of choice," Mr Ligovich said.

"The Community Residency Program also provides us with an opportunity to recruit community trained doctors so we can continue to increase the number of doctors within our workforce and have greater impact within the community."

Silver Chain is pleased to be expanding its role in medical education and training within Western Australia and looks forward to working closely with WA Health, Postgraduate Medical Council WA, Royal Perth Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to ensure the best educational experience for the RMOs and enhanced outcomes for the community including Silver Chain clients.

For more information about Silver Chain services, contact our Contact Centre, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on (08) 9242 0242 (or country callers on 1300 650 803).

Media Contact

Laura Wilson, Team Leader – Communications, Silver Chain

T (08) 6318 7621 | **M** 0408 585 853 | **E** laura.wilson@silverchain.org.au

About Silver Chain Group

In September 2011, Silver Chain in Western Australia and RDNS in South Australia, two like-minded not-for-profit organisations, merged to become one of the largest in-home health and care providers in Australia. With over 2,940 staff, 400 volunteers, the Group assists over 83,000 people to remain living in their homes and community every year.

The Silver Chain Group's purpose is to build community capacity to optimise health and wellbeing. This is the core of which we are as an organisation and will help shape the future of in-home community care across Australia. For more information, please see www.silverchain.org.au.