



TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST  
TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

## Recent Grads' Report - CMDFA AGM 2018

Dr Chris Williames

As another year draws to a close, it is a good chance to reflect on CMDFA's recent graduates' ministry. The first few years after graduating are important as we try to encourage Christian junior doctors and dentists to maintain their faith in what can often be a hostile environment. There are many additional pressures that are not seen in the student years and this can be a time where some lose connection with CMDFA or more concerning, wander in their faith. I see this as a crucial time for engaging our members, although I understand this has historically been a challenge, particularly with Millennials.

For recent grads, 2018 started with many Intern Boot Camps around Australia. I have personally seen how useful this was with my wife attending the Victorian Intern Boot Camp and finding it very helpful, hearing from seasoned Christian doctors just before starting her own career in medicine. I understand that this was well attended in various states. I am keen to see this event continue, particularly as a launching platform for interns in CMDFA as we encourage them to continue in fellowship.

The next major national event on the calendar for recent grads was impact, which as always was a great experience. Thanks for the great work from Drs Jacki Dunning, Chris Vartuli and the team.

It was during the IMPACT 2018 conference that I took over the role of CMDFA National Recent Grads Worker. I want to acknowledge and thank Dr Joel Wight for his years of faithful service in this role. As many people have reminded me, yours are big shoes to fill.

There have been various recent grads events in each state as well as recent grads participating in the general state based CMDFA events. This includes recent grads dinners, saline, mentoring, hospital fellowships, events with students, and other state events.

One of the challenges for Recent Grads' ministry in 2018 was the Recent Grads' Retreat. While there has been a decline in numbers in the past few years there seemed to be enough interest in this event for it to continue. However, unfortunately, this year, due to limited numbers we decided to cancel recent grads retreat. I found this quite challenging as a fair amount of work had been poured into this. Also, it is always hard seeing a particular ministry fizzle out.

This has been a good chance to reflect on Recent Grads Retreat and how it could be better. My feeling is that this event has traditionally been attended by about 80% participants from the state in which it is held; therefore, it should probably be a state based rather than national



**Christian Medical & Dental  
Fellowship of Australia**

ABN 95 084 292 464

Office • 35A/9 Hoyle Ave,  
Castle Hill 2154

Postal • PO Box 877,  
Baulkham Hills, NSW 1755

p +612 9680 1233  
f +612 9634 2659

office@cmdfa.org.au  
www.cmdfa.org.au



TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST  
TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

event. In order to facilitate this for next year, I have been working with the state committees to have a recent grads representative on each state committee. This is already in place in some states, and I have been connecting with these representatives. Some states are very organised and already have a lot happening for recent graduates- I am excited to hear this and keen to see it continue. Not every state will choose to run a retreat, but I hope to see at least one recent grad specific event in addition to intern boot camp. States may choose to run a local recent grad retreat or something similar like a half day event or dinner.

So where do I see recent grads going in 2019? I would hope to see a Recent Grads' representative on each state committee who reports to that committee and is also in contact with the national recent grad's worker for support, effective communication, and to reduce 're-inventing the wheel' where possible. I am very keen to see Intern Boot Camp continue and ideally at least one other state-based Recent Grads' event in the year. I will be encouraging Recent Grads to attend impact and cmdfa national conference. I am also keen to look further at developing resources for recent graduates.

I am looking forward to 2019 as we continue to encourage and support the recent graduates of CMDFA to grow in their faith and to stay connected to CMDFA, to their local church and most importantly to Jesus.



**Christian Medical & Dental  
Fellowship of Australia**

ABN 95 084 292 464

Office • 35A/9 Hoyle Ave,  
Castle Hill 2154

Postal • PO Box 877,  
Baulkham Hills, NSW 1755

p +612 9680 1233

f +612 9634 2659

office@cmdfa.org.au  
www.cmdfa.org.au