Crocfest Report

At the beginning of the trip out to Dubbo for Crocfest I really did not know what to expect. It was on the long coach ride out there that I realised how remote Dubbo was and how far all the children attending would have travelled to get there.

Arriving at our accommodation at the caravan park we were greeted by more than twenty young Aboriginal children from Cootamundra. The kids were energetic, happy and all very eager to get to know us. Just getting to know the young kids from Cootamundra would have been a rewarding experience without even having attended a single day at Crocfest itself.

It was when we began plastering arms and teaching the kids about the human body that I realised how much fun all the kids were having. Something as little as a plaster around the arm provided so much fun and excitement for all the school kids. This was the biggest event of the year for a lot of the kids. Providing them with something that could put a smile on their face and also teaching them about good health and the human body was a very enriching and rewarding experience.

One of the other highlights from the festival for me was the concert performance at night. Some of the schools had practiced for months and it was evident in their performances as they were very entertaining and of high standards.

It was also good to interact with students from various universities that all shared a similar interest in being committed to rural health. There is no reason as to why the people from these rural and remote communities should not be receiving the same access to health care services as the rest of us Australians. Knowing that there are many other students interested in improving and being committed to rural health is very encouraging and reassuring.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Dubbo’s Crocfest and look forward to the next time I get an opportunity to attend another Crocfest or something similar in the future.