

Dr Patrick John Docherty arrived in Australia in September 1965 with his wife and four children to commence a rural medical position in Mullewa Western Australia.

Prior to arriving in Australia and subsequent to his graduation from the Glasgow University in 1958:

- Two years as a Resident Doctor in Glasgow
- Approximately three years working as a volunteer Medical Practitioner in Catholic Mission Hospitals in Uganda (where Leprosy and Tuberculosis were rife)
- Approximately two years as a Civilian Doctor with the British Army based in Dortmund, Germany
- Short stint as a Locum in Liberia.

Since arriving in Mullewa he spent his entire time operating as a one-Doctor practice which in the late 60's, 70's and 80's was extremely busy. During his time in Mullewa he has been on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year, except when he has been on holidays.

He dedicated his career to nurturing good health in all people and since arriving in Mullewa he was a dedicated and committed rural practitioner with particular regard to:

- Obstetrics – He delivered in excess of 1,000 babies in Mullewa alone, not to mention countless others during his time in Africa.
- Aboriginal Health, and
- General Surgery

Of particular note is his achievement and contribution to reducing the infant mortality rate amongst Aboriginals and he was responsible for a better understanding of Aboriginal health needs and made them more receptive to Western medicine.

During the 1980's he introduced specialist-visiting rights to Mullewa and the town was serviced with Eye, Ear Nose and Throat specialists.

Dr Docherty cooperated with the local Community Health Nurse to improve the general awareness and health standards of the public.

The bulk of four of his vacation breaks, approximately eight weeks duration, from the practice in Mullewa were spent in Africa where he again volunteered his services to various Mission Hospitals and Clinics. In 1985, 1987 and 1992 he returned to Uganda, the first two times during times of high civil unrest, and in 1990 spent time in and around a Black Homeland in South Africa. These journeys were always accompanied with medical and clothing supplies which were obtained prior to leaving.

Other Career Achievements:

- Life member of the Rural Doctors Association;
- Mullewa Citizen of the Year;
- Fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, and
- Clinical Lecturer for the Department of General Practice at the University of WA
- Awarded Freeman of the Municipality of Mullewa.

Dr Docherty had a good sense of humour which was often misunderstood. During his time in Mullewa Dr Docherty was responsible for many acts of kindness which were above and beyond his duty as a Medical Practitioner and of which the general public would not have been aware of.