

# Moving to Moree in a Splash

When Child and Family Health Nurse Janice Schofield took up a six month secondment to Moree, she got off to a bumpy start arriving when the region was hit with the worst floods in 50 years, but that hasn't dampened her experience.

Originally from East Maitland, Janice jumped at the opportunity to temporarily relocate to the country and work closely alongside Aboriginal health education Officers, clients and their families, and Moree was the perfect opportunity to do so.

"I wanted an experience that was different to what I had done before and I especially wanted to work with the Aboriginal community," Janice says. Moree Community Health Manager Fiona Lysaught says it was great to recruit Janice, who was obviously very passionate about getting involved and working in the Mehi Cluster. "Being a rural cluster, we can sometimes find it difficult to recruit

clinicians for certain positions, but to have Janice come to us from Maitland was a blessing and we were very appreciative to her manager for letting us have her for six months," Fiona says.

"We have a great support system in place and we welcome staff who want to make the change and move to our country towns; we have a lot to offer."

During her secondment, Janice certainly got to know what the smaller communities could offer, spending time developing relationships through the weekly outreach program in Boggabilla and Toomelah, which is an all Aboriginal community.

"It took a while to start building relationships and now that I am getting there it is sad that I have to head back home."

Although Janice tried to extend her secondment, it just wasn't possible at the time. It does, however, paint a

positive picture about the opportunities for work and lifestyle that extend beyond our bigger cities.

"Moree is such a fantastic community and I have loved living and working in a place so different from my own home town," she said.

"I thoroughly recommend people think about a 'tree change' as what smaller communities can offer is so rewarding."

