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Warm welcome for new intern doctors

For registered nurse Maddy van der Leeden (pictured), the halls of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital are already familiar. From this week, she will walk them as a future doctor.

Maddy, 27, is one of 992 medical graduates undertaking a year-long internship in 2017 in NSW – with 99 working across Sydney Local Health District.

“RPA is such a friendly place and I think nursing is the best undergraduate degree you can do before medicine as it will be make me a better doctor,” she says.

Joining Maddy today at RPA is Nathan Jamieson who moved to Sydney from Inverell to gain experience at a larger hospital.

“I was encouraged to gain skills that can contribute to improving the existing systems in regional hospitals and I hope to return to Coffs Harbour to work in the future,” he says.

For Jayshil Vyas, the decision to become a doctor came after watching his parents struggle with the quality of life of his sister, who died from cerebral palsy when he was seven years old.

“I’d like to be a part of the patient’s journey and to provide supportive care.”

Zhiyuan Ma already feels a close connection with RPA, having been a patient. And he's already been volunteering with us during his studies.

“I’ve always been inclined to help others and I’m very proud to be able to work at RPA,” he says.

The graduates will complete compulsory terms in medicine, surgery and emergency, and will rotate through metropolitan, regional or rural hospitals, as well as GP practices.

