Q&A

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Chair 2026, Medical Student Council of WA (MSCWA)

Student leader reckons West is Best

When did you first know you wanted to be a doctor?

When I was younger, I actually wanted to be a vet. But when my mum told me I couldn't be a vet only for cats, I just decided, "Well, I guess I'll be a doctor instead." Some artwork I did when I was little (shared on this page) highlights what I thought being a doctor meant, which included "giving people medicine and keeping people alive."

While this is true, as I grew older, I learnt that medicine involves a bit more than just those two things, and it only made me want to become a doctor more. I am incredibly excited to start working next year, and I hope I can display all the qualities 10-year-old Eva thought would be important.

Why did you join the MSCWA?

As a proud Western Australian who is often quoted saying, "West is Best," I saw MSCWA as a good opportunity to advocate for the interests of Western Australian students. MSCWA is a fairly new and unknown council compared to our Eastern states' counterparts, so I wanted to connect the council with other states and key stakeholders here in WA to increase our advocacy power, especially in a time of need with cost-of-living pressures and medical students' exclusion from the Commonwealth Paid Practicum scheme.

Our goal this year was to restructure and build the Council up to be in a better position to advocate, as well as focus on WA-specific measures to reduce the financial burden on medical students. I am very grateful to the AMA (WA) for all their help this year in advocating on our behalf, as well as introducing free first-aid training for medical students to reduce some of the financial burden of mandatory costs. I look forward to seeing what the new Council achieves next year, when we expand from a two-person committee to five!

Why did you join the AMA (WA)?

I joined the AMA because I think there is always power in a collective, and we must work together to get the best outcome for all. As I step into the workplace next year, seeing all the work the AMA does behind the scenes to secure bargaining agreements and settling disputes, as well as providing financial advice and payslip assistance, I feel comforted knowing I will have extra support as I navigate this exciting transition time.

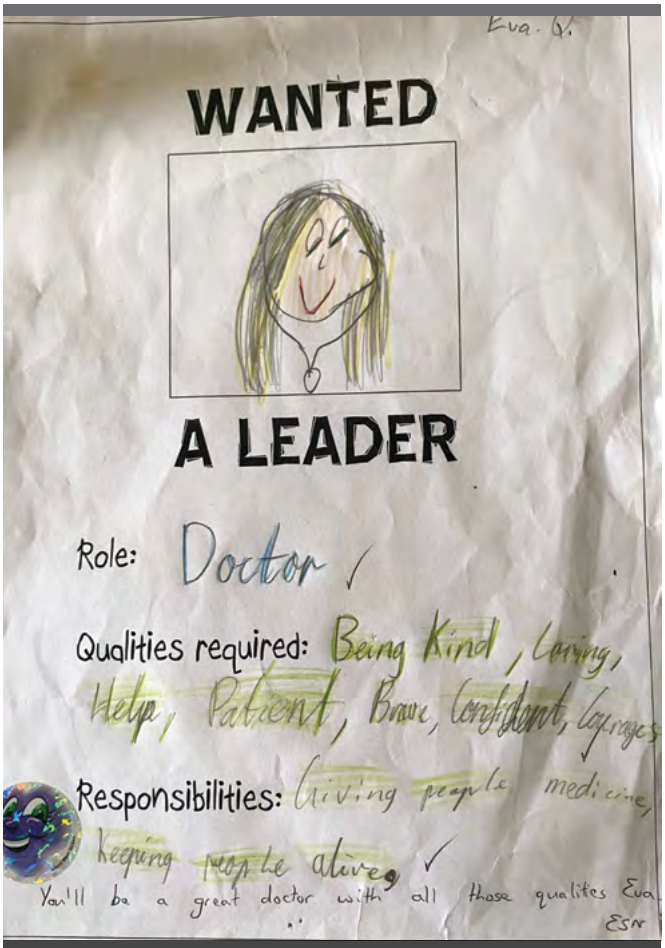
Do you have a specialty in mind?

While I haven't completely made up my mind, I think my future specialty needs to be one where every day is different, and I get to do a little bit of everything. As someone who has had a wide variety of interests, I have always related a bit to this quote and imagine my career will be similar: "A jack of all trades is a master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one."

Specialties such as ED physician, GP, or Rural Generalist are quite high on my list, and being able to do rural work is very important to me. I had the privilege of studying in Port Hedland for a whole year, and I can't wait to get back out to the red dirt!

What's the first issue you'd tackle if you were WA Minister for Health?

This might sound very Gen Z of me, but it would be digitising our health records. I completed my first year of placement in Port Hedland which had all digital records, and I was shocked upon my return to placement in Perth to see paper records were still being used.



Eva's primary school artwork.



Studying in Port Hedland.

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While not a very exciting thing to fix in the public eye, the administrative burden that is reduced by an online management system is huge. Saving medical professionals time on admin means they can spend more time with patients, creating management plans with colleagues and other medical professionals, and teaching the next generation of doctors.

Are there any heroes or mentors who've guided your path so far?

I've had quite a few over the years, but there is one person who I feel has been incredibly influential in my adult life. Dr Demelza Ireland was my tutor for some undergraduate units and my Honours research supervisor, who taught me not only a lot of practical skills but also what being a good mentor is. She consistently supported me, provided me with opportunities to grow, and always pushed me to improve.

I am both a better student and person from having her mentorship, and I hope one day I will be able to provide the same level of care to a student of my own.

If you weren't a doctor, what would you be?

I would have been a teacher. I hope to come back and lecture at university one day – so I guess maybe one day I'll get to be both a doctor and teacher!

What's the one lesson you always remember?

Not everything always goes to plan, but at the end of the day you just need to keep going, remembering the classic Australian colloquialism: "She'll be right."

What's something your parents impressed upon you?

To always support and encourage your loved ones, both friends and family.

What's your ideal holiday destination?

Nothing beats the bush up in the Pilbara! I think Karijini National Park is one of the best places in the world – if you haven't been, it needs to go on your bucket list. ■



Eva at Karijini National Park.

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