Rural and Remote professional experience: General information

Experience teaching and living in a rural and remote community before you receive an employment offer as a beginning teacher.

- Like all practicums, expect to work hard, listen, communicate well, remain professional, join in all school and community activities.
- Remember you have a University Supervisor appointed to you and the school. Make sure you know who this is and have their telephone contact and email address.

In the community:

- Many rural or remote schools are located in small, close-knit communities with the school being the ‘hub’ of the community. The population generally all know each other.
- As a preservice teacher you will be very much on view and you will be expected to join in community activities and act professionally at all times.
- Smaller communities will have corner stores and not too many shops – usually a supermarket/general store, hotel, post office, milk bar, newsagent, and garage.
- Some items may be more expensive, limited in variety or freshness, or simply not available such as certain fruit and vegetables. Petrol can also be more expensive.
- There may not be any mobile service in some locations. Consider alternatives such as a phone card and Skype.

Accommodation:

- You need to check with the school/your accommodation as to what items you may need to take. Suggestions are:
  - Personal belongings – clothes, personal items (ask about dress standards);
  - Linen such as sheets, pillow cases, towels and tea-towels;
  - Sometimes you may even need cutlery and crockery, saucepans/frypans;
  - Resources such as games, story books - check with your supervising teacher before you start;
  - Small gifts/cards to write a personal message for host, supervising teacher, etc. (Gifts do not need to be expensive).

Advice from students who have undertaken a rural or remote field experience:

- If possible, stay in the community on weekends and participate in community activities.
- You may experience homesickness and isolation in a small town so think about how you could be prepared for this.
- If you take your car, ensure you have the finances to pay for repairs.
- Check that your car is suitable to travel on country roads i.e. gravel, rough/rutted, corrugated.
- It is recommended that you DON’T travel in any rural/remote area before 7am or after 5pm due to wildlife which can be plentiful.
- You pay for your own phone calls and internet access if sharing accommodation.