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Member profile: Sandeep Reddy

New 2013 ACHSM Fellow

How would you describe your work to someone you meet at a dinner party?

My work so far, in the Northern Territory Department of Health, has spanned across Health Administration, Healthcare Policy, Health Service Planning, Data Analysis and Research.



What made you venture into health management?

I moved from clinical practice, via public health and university teaching, to healthcare management over several years. The slow transition has helped me better appreciate the role of healthcare management in the health system. Often under-appreciated, healthcare management not only plays a leadership role in determining how health services operate but also brings together a multitude of paradigms to function in a cohesive manner.

Tell us about the challenges of the Fellowship Program?

I wouldn't put it as 'challenges' but rather 'opportunities'. The opportunities are being able to acquire enhanced knowledge of the Australian healthcare system and acquaint oneself with various view points about it.

How do you think being a Fellow will change your professional outlook?

Being a Fellow not only carries the recognition and opportunities that come along with it, but it helps you get the big picture (Whole of the System View).

I understand that you've also worked in New Zealand and studied in the UK. How long have you worked in the NT for?

I have been in the Northern Territory for more than two and a half years.

Along with my experience in New Zealand and the UK, I also have undergone practical training in the USA and Denmark. These experiences have helped me appreciate how interconnected health services are, and have helped with my work in the Northern Territory.

Was coming to the NT a culture shock?

Coming to Darwin was more of a 'weather shock' than 'culture shock'. If you have not experienced it, nothing prepares you for the build (humidity) before onset of the wet season. Having said this, I have greatly enjoyed the multi-cultural environment in Darwin.

Has someone stood out as an influence on your career? Could be someone you know or a famous person.

While this may come across as cliché laden, I admire Eddie Mabo, M.K. Gandhi, Leo Tolstoy, Albert Einstein and Martin Luther King Jr as inspirational figures of history.

What is the most rewarding and enjoyable aspect of your position?

The diverse health issues I have dealt in my position and the ability to undertake a collaborative approach to address issues.

What is your career highlight?

- Introducing major healthcare programs and innovations where they did not previously exist, and
- Establishing a non-governmental organisation to address minority health issues.

What professional challenges are on the horizon for you?

Acquiring the Fellowship has motivated me to seek higher responsibilities and new challenges. Also I now have a strong motivation to build my healthcare management research profile.

What word of advice would you give to prospective Fellow candidates?

1. View the preparation for the exam as a learning opportunity.
2. Join a study group if possible.
3. Review all the readings, a day or two before the exam.

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