Comments from Students
In Rural and Remote Areas (with permission)

Coober Pedy
• The hospital staff are very nice people. One of the patients is just like our John Richards case scenario - car accident and then decreased conscious state. They're sending him to the Royal Adelaide because they are worried.

• We're looking at ringing the RFDS to see what the chances are of accompanying them on a trip. If we can manage it, it should be very interesting.

• We are getting to know many of the Indigenous people. There are two women that have been bitten by dogs and everyday their dressing has to be change, today they asked that only we could change their dressing, so we kind of felt special.

• Work at the hospital is more interesting now that there are more patients. They have a wide range, from psychiatric to detoxification.

• It has been good up here so far. Coober Pedy is dry and dusty, with lots of flies, dogs and alcohol. Thursday night at the pub was quite pleasant. We played a couple of games of pool against one of the nurses.

Oodnadatta
• We have had a warm and welcoming greeting, which has made our time here so far very relaxed and enjoyable. All the staff from the hospital are fantastic, we are getting a lot of one on one formal and informal information.

• Yesterday we drove out to the Mt Sarah and Hamilton station. It was a great day and gave us a wonderful insight into the benefits of community nursing.

• We had a wonderful day today. The school presented us with a token mug filled with lollies and a card for international nurses day.
• A young girl had a pacemaker over exerted herself and needed monitoring and some rest, another older male was experiencing severe abdo pain - suspected renal colic.

• We gave a mini pap smear presentation to a group of local women last Thursday, following a women's day luncheon. We want to tackle things like growth and development, safe sex, STD's, pregnancy, rape, alcohol use and sex, and domestic violence.

• We are having a great time and learning a lot about nursing and the involvement and responsibilities of community nurses.

Alice Springs
• It's very challenging nursing. It is such an eye opener to see just how sick the Aboriginal people are, and how young they get sick, it's mind blowing.

• Communication is interesting, especially to the older patients, but somehow you seem to get by.

• I nursed a health worker today, she was wonderful we talked about the communities and where she had worked and what we we're doing. It was great to be able to do that and win a patients trust.

• Working in ICU has been very interesting and I have learnt a lot, however we are left to our own devices at times which can be rather daunting but I guess it is the best way to learn.

• Being here during a rotavirus outbreak is quite an experience, luckily we don't see many of the kids in ICU but it has put a strain on things.

• All in all we are having a fantastic time, too good I think, shame we have to do assignments whilst we are up here though!!!!

Central Australia Remote
• The clinic is much nicer than I anticipated, and the people are every bit as sick as I imagined. The whole situation is very confronting. My I.M. injection skills were fine tuned after the second day!
• There have been two evacs, one 5mth old baby by road with me administering ORS in the back of the ambulance at night. The second was a RFDS.

• We have spent time with the school children talking about how to wipe bums (3 yrs of uni!) and primary health care reinforcement with the outbreak of Rota virus. Just what we needed for our assignment.

• We have been really tired after a day in the clinic.

• Our RN is fabulous.

• We are being well accepted (slowly) with the community and we have full sorry business in place after a death in Alice of a young man from this community.

Eyre Peninsula
• The staff here are are really friendly and supportive.

• I have watched TWO Caesarean sections in my first week here, done an ECG, removed stitches, done an infant discharge weigh and measure, done wound dressings, did a morning with the outreach nurse (like RDNS)

• Apart from that I have been working with the aged residents, and have had 2 acute care patients of my own - one is an elderly man who is possibly in hospital to die, he is a most lovely man, the other an aged man with incontinence and Alzheimers.

• In a hospital like this, I have a stress free environment to practice in.

• My clinical preceptor is great. I love it here.

• The doctors are getting to know me and even take me with them when they are performing special tests on patients.

• This is a great placement especially for second semester 2nd year and third year students.
• Assisted a doctor last night to put a temporary pacemaker in a 91 year old man, he will be flown out today for the RAH.

• Have had a fantastic shift today. Actually put a indwelling catheter in a lady this am. Had a man with a badly crushed foot.

• Assisted a doctor with the suture work and dressings.

• I am learning so much and in such a short time too.