



2026 Medical Bursary

WINNER



Dr Angus Crombie

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Dr Angus Crombie is an Orthopaedic Registrar at Gold Coast University Hospital in his final year of surgical training. He has a strong interest in hand, wrist and microsurgery and will commence practice as an Orthopaedic Surgeon at Cairns Hospital in Far North Queensland later this year. Throughout his medical career, Dr Crombie has been actively involved in outreach and global health initiatives. He has a particular focus on improving access to surgical care for underserved communities across Northern Australia, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations in Cape York, the Torres Strait and the Northern Territory, as well as neighbouring Pacific and Southeast Asian nations. Having witnessed the challenges faced by patients in remote communities who must travel vast distances to access specialist care, he has developed a strong commitment to improving surgical services in underserved regions.

Access to orthopaedic care in the Solomon Islands remains a significant challenge. The country's National Referral Hospital in Honiara, a 300-bed tertiary centre, provides the majority of specialist orthopaedic and trauma services for a population of approximately 850,000 people. Geographical barriers are immense – the remote archipelago of roughly 1000 islands stretches across 1500km of the Pacific Ocean. For many patients, accessing care requires extensive travel, considerable expense and prolonged delays. This often resulting in advanced presentations of otherwise treatable conditions and a substantial burden on individuals, families and the healthcare system.

The Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association has played a pivotal role in strengthening local surgical capacity since its establishment in 2012. Through its training program, twelve orthopaedic surgeons have graduated across the Pacific region, with three new trainees commencing in 2026 from the Solomon Islands. These initiatives are helping to build a sustainable local workforce capable of delivering specialist Orthopaedic care to Pacific communities.

Dr Crombie will be visiting the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands alongside a multidisciplinary team of Nurses, Hand Therapists, Radiologists, Anaesthetists, and Plastic and Orthopaedic Surgeons in November 2026. The focus of the visit is teaching and training of the local staff involved in orthopaedic and trauma care, to enable sustainable, high-quality healthcare delivery to the local community. The Walshs Medical Bursary funding will provide much-needed surgical consumables including microsurgical sutures, nerve stimulators, and equipment to improve patient safety and ergonomics in the operating theatre, such as modern tourniquets and adjustable surgical stools. This will foster sustainable improvements in healthcare provision long after the outreach team has departed.