**2019 Regional Scholarship recipient: Luke Ringin (WA Centre for Rural Health)**



**Brief History of Myself**

I always knew I was going to go into a career where I would be helping people, which lead me to enrol at Edith Cowan University studying nursing. After wanting to work instead of study I dropped out and began working at Crown Perth as a croupier. This could only last for so long until my passion for learning kicked back in and I was applying for paramedicine at Curtin University. After being unsuccessful in this endeavour health promotion was my back up option and turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made, graduating from Curtin University at the end of 2018 with a Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion). I applied for the Australian Health Promotion Association Scholarship to apply the skills learnt over my degree into a practical setting while gaining experience in a rural setting.

**Summary of Scholarship Project**

I will be working with the Western Australian Centre for Rural Health in Geraldton. The scholarship project I am working on is the Men Against Violence (MAV) program. This program will be a part of the ‘Community, Respect and Equality Framework’ that already exists in Geraldton which focuses on reducing family violence in the Mid-West region. I will be using evidence and applying existing resources to a local setting to create an education plan for sporting club coaches and staff, allowing participants to be a stronger role models and educators for young men and boys in the prevention of family violence.

After reviewing effective literature I will be conducting focus groups with club coaches and staff as well as young men and boys to confirm or alter the education plan strategies. These focus groups as well as a questionnaire developed for the education strategy will allow us to measure the awareness of family violence among target groups. Other strategies that will be a part of the program include conducting an audit of sporting club policy in regards to equality and the treatment of others. Recommendations will be made to sporting clubs who choose to participate in the program.

The overall goal from the MAV program is to improve the awareness of stakeholders in Geraldton, particularly men and boys, of the importance of healthy relationships in reducing family violence, while also improving gender equality in sporting environments through policy change by the completion of the scholarship.