

# Local healthcare focus: the globetrotting doctor now calling Calwell home



the same! Having been part of South Africa, the facilities and equipment in Namibia were also quite good. Don't forget, open heart surgery was pioneered in South Africa."

In fact, some of Dr Inyang's more memorable experiences of health facilities challenges as a doctor have been during stints in remote areas of Australia. "At one time, I was working as a locum in Brewarrina in NSW," he says. "I was the only doctor in the small hospital there in December 2019. A patient had been stabbed in the chest and needed to be urgently transferred to Dubbo or Orange for specialised treatment. Before the transfer, we did a chest X-ray, which showed that she had blood in the outer lining of her lungs."

The blood was preventing the patient's lungs from expanding fully, so she wasn't able to breathe properly and was at serious risk from oxygen deprivation.

"I knew she needed a chest tube to drain the blood - something I hadn't done since I left the hospital setting in Namibia over a decade before! But such skills stay with you and fortunately I had done the procedure many times."

After consulting with the emergency service managing the transfer, Dr Inyang successfully inserted the tube and the patient eventually made a full recovery. "When I saw her again, she was so appreciative. She knew that she'd been very lucky - that an X-ray could be performed immediately, that a chest tube was available, and that I happened to have experience in



the procedure as it's not part of the usual GP skillset."

It was back in Namibia that Dr Inyang had decided to focus on general practice and he undertook further study in the area in South Africa. After moving to Botswana in 2003 to work as a GP, he was recruited to work in WA in 2008. For the next decade, he worked in emergency departments, hospital wards, operating theatres and family practice clinics across Australia.

By 2020, when COVID hit, all three of Dr Inyang's children were studying in Canberra. "One studied pharmacy at UC, another is a lawyer who also did an accounting degree at ANU, and the third studied advanced computing. He now has a scholarship to study for a PhD in business analytics."

With their children all in one place, Dr Inyang and his wife decided to relocate permanently to the ACT and she now works as a senior nurse at Canberra Hospital.

These days, Dr Inyang particularly enjoys skin medicine and minor surgery. "I like being able to solve the patient's problem immediately," he says. "You might come in with a growth on your neck, or elsewhere on your body, that you want me to remove. I do so and send it to pathology. They confirm exactly what it is and that problem is usually solved forever."

He's also interested in chronic conditions and plans to establish weekly clinics with nursing support to manage diabetes and administer iron infusions.

"I'm very lucky to have found a great team in Calwell to build up these clinics," he says. "There are so many experienced clinicians and they have a lovely friendly style - it's a great medical centre."

**Dr Inyana is accepting new patients at Ochre Medical Centre Calwell. Bookings can be made online at [ochrehealth.com.au](http://ochrehealth.com.au) or by calling the practice on (02) 6291 0045**

Meet Dr Emmanuel Inyang - a new doctor with Ochre Medical Centre Calwell who has 25 years of experience and a career spanning five countries!

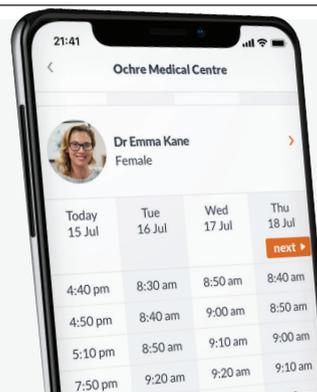
Originally from Nigeria, Dr Inyang worked in local clinics and hospitals there for five years before deciding to join the Technical Aid Corps and work overseas. "It's like the Peace Corps," he said, "Nigeria used to send doctors and other professionals to other developing nations to assist them. Under the program, I first worked in Gambia and then in Namibia for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Namibia had recently become independent from South Africa and the new country urgently needed clinicians, so the UNDP sent us there. It was certainly an interesting time!"

Asked whether practising medicine is different in Africa, he laughs. "The human body is the same everywhere," he says. "Some health conditions are more common in specific settings than in others, but apart from that it's



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