

A dream fulfilled

Sophie Blakemore

DR Romany Topsfield can remember way back when her initial interest was sparked in a career in general practice.

As a little girl she was given a copy of a children's book about pain and the body's reactions to it.

"I was absolutely fascinated," Dr Topsfield says. "None of my family work in medicine, but I always wanted to be a GP throughout my childhood."

Earlier this month the South Australian registrar fulfilled her ambition when she passed her RACGP fellowship exams.

Not only did she pass, she did so with flying colours.

She was awarded the college's M O Kent-Hughes Memorial Medal for achieving the highest national overall score in each examination out of the

470 candidates who sat this year's first round of exams.

But Dr Topsfield hasn't let success go to her head.

"Most days I go home and think 'I love what I do – I feel so lucky to enjoy my job so much and feel so passionate about it'. I love the people I treat and the privilege I feel at being given the opportunity to share in their lives."

Dr Topsfield studied medicine at Adelaide University and plans to continue working at her Hawthorn practice for the foreseeable future.

However, she hopes her love of Indigenous and refugee health will allow her to travel – starting with the chance to help carry out the federal government's Indigenous child health checks in the Northern Territory later this year.