

Top fellowship GP astonished at result

BY SOPHIE McNAMARA

DR Romany Topsfield has beaten almost 500 other candidates to score top marks in this year's RACGP fellowship exam.

Dr Topsfield said that while the clinical part of the exam was much like a normal day in general practice, she found the multiple choice section was "hor-

rific" and feared she had failed.

Instead, she will receive the MO Kent-Hughes Memorial Medal and Certificate for the highest overall score.

"I was absolutely astonished," Dr Topsfield said.

Dr Topsfield, who also won a university medal while studying at the Uni-

versity of Adelaide, will continue practising at the nine-GP Crafter Medical Centre in the Adelaide suburb of Hawthorn.

"I'm thrilled about that because I love it here," she said.

"I really admire the other doctors I work with. There's not one that I wouldn't model myself on."

Dr Topsfield hopes to combine part-time general practice with teaching at the University of Adelaide and work in Indigenous or refugee health.

While Dr Topsfield is the first person in her family to have studied medicine, she said she always wanted to be a doctor.

"It's been a lifelong

dream. I've never wished I had done anything else."

She enjoyed the general practice training program and says she was well supported both by her supervisors and local training provider, Sturt Fleurieu.

Dr Topsfield said she chose general practice because it enabled her to

practise several aspects of medicine, including her two favourite specialties — paediatrics and palliative care.

"And I love the opportunity to get to know patients and to see them on an ongoing basis. To see the outcomes and to watch kids grow," she said.

"The best bit about medicine is the people."