



# 2023 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## Media Statement

18 January 2023

### 2023 WA Rural Health Awards finalists announced

More than thirty health professionals and teams have been shortlisted from over 130 nominations for this year's WA Rural Health Excellence Awards.

Hosted by WA Country Health Service and Rural Health West, the annual awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of rural health professionals in clinical practise, leadership, research, education, innovation and improvement and community health.

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet said this year, more than ever, it was important to recognise that country clinicians go above and beyond for their communities.

"We're coming off the back of two really challenging years for the health sector," Mr Moffet said.

"It's something we would have never gotten through without the support and leadership of our country health workforce.

"Together, we manage the health needs of communities spanning more than 2.55 million square kilometres.

"The collective skill and talent we have caring for country communities is unmatched and the Rural Health Awards are a very important way to recognise the remarkable contributions of our people," he said.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton said this year's nominations highlighted the incredible calibre of health professionals working in country WA.

"The selection process has become harder and harder for those on our judging panels, as some of the work being undertaken is simply phenomenal," Mr Shackleton said.

"It's particularly gratifying to see such strong competition in our Rising Star category, which suggests that we have a very strong cohort of early career professionals poised to transform their workplaces and improve the health and wellbeing of communities in years to come. Also wonderful to see is nominees and finalists from every region across WA.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate all of the health professionals nominated this year for their commitment, dedication and passion."

A panel of clinicians and representatives from rural and health organisations selected the finalists across twelve award categories.

The winners of the 2023 WA Rural Health Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony held during the WA Rural Health Conference on Saturday, 11 March 2023.

**2023 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards Finalists**

<b>Award</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Building Healthy Country Communities	Diabetes Telehealth for Country WA, Diabetes WA	
	WA Country Health Service Pilbara Palliative Care Service	
	Warren Blackwood Enhancing Primary Health initiative, collaborative of primary health providers in Manjimup and Bridgetown	
Clinical Leadership	Dr Jonathan Blundell	Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Services
	Dr Joy Rowland	Department of Justice
	Helen Stuart	WA Country Health Service – Bridgetown
GP of the Year	Dr Michael Dewing	Bridgetown Medical Group
	Dr Kylie Sterry	Plaza Medical Centre, Kalgoorlie
	Dr Olga Ward	Eastern Wheatbelt Visiting GP Service
Metropolitan-based Bush Champion	Professor Donna Mak	The University of Notre Dame Australia – Fremantle
	Dr Lewis Marshall	South Metropolitan Health Service – Fremantle
	Dr Justin Yeung	WA Country Health Service
People's Choice	Laura Black	Westonia Shire Surgery
	Dr Rohan Carter	Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service – Murchison Outreach Service
	Alex Craig	Karratha Eye Care
Rising Star	Kyra King	Goldfields Physio
	Aimee Tingey	WA Centre for Rural Health – Geraldton
	Paige Weaver	WA Country Health Service – Boyup Brook
Rural Allied Health Professional of the Year	Alex Craig	Karratha Eye Care
	Sally Rogers	Earl Street Physiotherapy
	Sarah Tomlinson	WA Country Health Service – Kununurra
Rural Nurse/Midwife of the Year	Jemima Higgins	South West Aboriginal Medical Service
	Catherine Kirby	WA Country Health Service – Eastern Wheatbelt Primary Health Service
	Chantelle Pears	WA Country Health Service – Pilbara

Rural Researcher or Educator	Associate Professor Michele Gawlinski	The Rural Clinical School of WA – Perth
	Kathryn Fitzgerald	WA Centre for Rural Health – Geraldton
	Associate Professor Bronwyn Peirce	The Rural Clinical School of WA and WA Country Health Service – Bunbury
Specialist of the Year (non-GP)	Dr Angela Alessandri	WA Country Health Service – Great Southern
	Dr Pushpika Gunaratne	WA Country Health Service – Goldfields
	Dr Jared Watts	WA Country Health Service – Kimberley
WA Country Health Service – Intern of the Year	Dr Lucy Irvine	WA Country Health Service – Bunbury
	Dr Angela Park	WA Country Health Service – Broome
	Dr Josaphine Sadler	WA Country Health Service – Albany
WA Country Health Service – RMO of the Year	Dr Michelle dos Santos	WA Country Health Service – Bunbury
	Dr Renita Whittle	WA Country Health Service – Broome

## ENDS

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