



2022 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



Media Statement

24 October 2022

Excellence recognition for rural health professionals

Health professionals supporting rural communities across Western Australia were recognised for their outstanding achievements at the 2022 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards over the weekend.

Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service host the annual WA Rural Health Excellence Awards to acknowledge the critical role health professionals play in supporting the ongoing health, vitality and sustainability of rural communities across Western Australia.

Health professionals are nominated by peers, colleagues and the community across 12 categories acknowledging outstanding performance in different facets and professions represented throughout the rural health sector.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer, Tim Shackleton congratulated the finalists and award winners for their contributions to ensuring the ongoing viability and vibrancy of WA's rural communities.

“The past few years have demonstrated the absolutely critical role that health professionals play in preserving our way of life. As always, we are delighted to play a role in celebrating them and to shine a light on their excellence.

“It is wonderful to this year celebrate the achievements of a number of health professionals who have worked in the bush for many years and who have also played a role in promoting rural health as a career of choice to the next generation of clinicians.

“We are particularly pleased to recognise a record number of health professionals from the Pilbara at this year's awards, including the recipient of the Chairman's Award, Dr Cherelle Fitzclarence. The Pilbara has experienced enduring health workforce challenges, however this year's recipients demonstrate the region is now attracting some of our best and brightest.”

WACHS Chief Executive Jeff Moffet echoed the sentiment.

“While the last 12 months have been challenging for healthcare professionals right across the state, we know country clinicians have been working particularly hard – often managing with smaller cohorts compared to their metropolitan counterparts,” WACHS Chief Executive Jeff Moffet said.

“At a time where maintaining the health and wellbeing of country communities couldn’t be more important, our rural champions have continued to go above and beyond to provide safe, patient centred care for those who need it most and I’m pleased to see their achievements being recognised at the Rural Health Awards.”

2022 WA Rural Health Awards Finalists

Award recipient	Award Category	Workplace
Dr Cherelle Fitzclarence	Clinical Leadership and Chairman’s Award recipient	WA Country Health Service – West Pilbara
COVID Vaccination Team	Building Healthy Country Communities	Royal Flying Doctor Service
Dr Seema Basil (joint winner)	GP of the Year	Mawarnkarra Health Service
Dr Peter Maguire (joint winner)	GP of the Year	WA Country Health Service, The Rural Clinical School of WA and Earl Street Surgery, Narrogin
Dr Jenny Vance	Metropolitan-Based Bush Champion	WA Country Health Service – Karratha
Kelsie Docking and Jessie Jones (jointly nominated and recognised)	People’s Choice	Pilbara Therapy Services
Sheree Davies	Rising Star	WA Country Health Service – Karratha
Jan Batchelor	Rural Allied Health Professional of the Year	WA Country Health Service – Katanning
Marianne Testi	Rural Nurse/ Midwife of the Year	Royal Flying Doctor Service
Dr Antonio Celenza	Rural Researcher or Educator	Rural Health West
Dr Lydia Scott	Specialist of the Year	WA Country Health Service – Kimberley
Dr Alec Disley	2021 Intern of the Year	WA Country Health Service – Albany
Dr Fiona Spencer	2021 Resident Medical Officer of the Year	WA Country Health Service – Bunbury

The WA Rural Health Awards are proudly sponsored by Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Rural Doctors Association of Australia, St John of God – Bunbury, The Rural Clinical School of WA, WA General Practice Education and Training, and Wesfarmers.

ENDS

Information on each of the finalists is available by request

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