



Media Statement

20 November 2023

Finalists announced for 2024 WA Rural Health Awards

From a field of more than 130 outstanding nominations, a group of 27 health professionals and teams have been shortlisted for recognition at the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards 2024.

Hosted by WA Country Health Service and Rural Health West, the annual awards celebrate the most dedicated and compassionate clinicians – and sometimes quiet achievers – of rural healthcare.

These health professionals, ranging from clinical leaders to emerging talents, and now, the nominees in the inaugural Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year category, epitomise the spirit of commitment and compassion that drives them to service their communities.

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet said the awards recognise the significant contributions made by health teams across country WA.

"We know how hard our regional teams work to provide excellent care to their communities.

"It's important to take every opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable actions and dedication of some of our very best.

"Time and time again they show us why country clinicians are so well-known for going above and beyond," Mr Moffet said.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton also highlighted the remarkable quality of healthcare professionals serving rural Western Australia.

The introduction of the 'Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year' category is a chance to shine a spotlight on the exceptional achievements of Aboriginal healthcare professionals.

"We are delighted this year's awards also shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of our Aboriginal healthcare professionals working in regional WA," Mr Shackleton said.

"This award recognises an Aboriginal health professional who has demonstrated unwavering dedication, both personally and professionally, to delivering safe, responsive, compassionate, and culturally appropriate healthcare. Their remarkable commitment results in the delivery of high-quality services that significantly enrich the lives of rural communities."

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

The winners of the 2024 WA Rural Health Awards will be unveiled at a ceremony during the WA Rural Health Conference on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

2024 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards Finalists

Category	Finalists
Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Kelly, WA Country Health Service, Pilbara • Helena Lane, WA Country Health Service, Pilbara • Lesley Nelson, South West Aboriginal Medical Service, Bunbury
Clinical Leader of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirsten Bosich, WA Country Health Service, South West • Paul Ingram, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Jandakot • Lila Stephens, WA Country Health Service, South West
Community Health Professional of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Angliss, Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service, Kununurra • Anne Evans, WA Country Health Service, Wheatbelt • Katie Wootton, Panaceum Group Medical Practice, Karratha
GP of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Rosser-Davies, Manjimup Medical Centre • Rosalie Schultz, Ngaanyatjarra Health Service • Stephanie Trust, Wunan Health, Kununurra
Health Team of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Preterm Birth Prevention Alliance, Bunbury • Avon Valley Midwifery Group Practice, WA Country Health Service • TeleChemotherapy, WA Country Health Service
Nurse or Midwife of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Black, Westonia Shire Surgery • Michele Harvey, Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service, Kununurra • Felicity Jones, WA Country Health Service, South West
Rural Allied Health Professional of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robyn Doney, Patches Therapy Services, Broome • Ivan Lin, Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Midwest • Margie O'Neill, Lions Outback Vision, East Kimberley
Specialist (Non-GP) of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Armitage, WA Country Health Service, Midwest • Anton Hinton-Bayre, Western ENT, Pilbara and Perth • Dominic Mallon, Pathwest, Kimberley
Young Health Professional of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Boyle, Pilbara Therapy Services, Karratha • Tia Brand-Williams, Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service Newman • Phoebe Riches, WA Country Health Service, South West

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