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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Media Statement

24 March 2025

Excellence Recognised Across the State: Winners Announced for the 2025 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards

The winners of the 2025 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards were announced at a gala event at the weekend, celebrating the outstanding contributions of health professionals and teams working in regional and remote Western Australia.

Organised annually by Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service, the awards shine a spotlight on the exceptional individuals and organisations dedicated to improving rural health outcomes.

This year's winners represent nearly every region of WA, demonstrating that excellence in rural healthcare extends across the entire state.

The 2025 winners are:

- **Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year** (two winners): Soleil White, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) and Sharon Lockyer, WA Country Health Service – Pilbara
- **Allied Health Professional of the Year**: Bryan Fleming, Lake Grace Dental and Dalyellup Dental
- **Clinical Leader of the Year** (joint winners): David and Hayley Rigby, Pilbara Therapy Services
- **Community Health Professional of the Year** (two winners): Debra Collins, Morawa and surrounding areas, and Alexandra Naylor, Goldfields Family Dental
- **General Practitioner of the Year**: Susannah Warwick, Derby Aboriginal Health Service
- **Health Team of the Year**: Lions Outback Vision, based in the Kimberley and Perth providing a statewide service.
- **Nurse or Midwife of the Year**: Nicholas Corsair, Kimberley Renal Services
- **Specialist of the Year**: Apaks Dede, WA Country Health Service, Midwest
- **Young Professional of the Year**: Tylah Bedford, Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation
- **WA Country Health Service Intern of the Year**: Holly Reid, WA Country Health Service, Great Southern

- **WA Country Health Service Resident Medical Officer of the Year:** Xavier Cornwall, WA Country Health Service, South West
- **Chairmans' Award:** Bryan Fleming, Lake Grace Dental and Dalyellup Dental

This year's winners displayed common themes of innovation, cultural connection, and a relentless commitment to addressing the unique health challenges faced by rural communities.

From culturally safe care and chronic disease management to advanced telehealth services and outreach initiatives, the winners exemplify the highest standards of rural healthcare.

In addition to being recognised as Allied Health Professional of the Year, Bryan Fleming received the overall Chairmans Award in acknowledgement of his exemplary service to many rural communities over his four decades as a dentist.

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet commended the winners for their exceptional dedication:

"These awards recognise the remarkable contributions of rural health professionals across regional Western Australia," Jeff said.

"As the largest employer of health professionals in rural and remote areas, we are immensely proud to support individuals and teams working to provide equitable, high-quality care to our communities.

"This year's winners and finalists reflect the talent, compassion, and commitment that are the backbone of rural healthcare."

Professor Catherine Elliott, Chief Executive Officer of Rural Health West, highlighted the importance of celebrating excellence in rural health:

"The WA Rural Health Excellence Awards celebrate the people who are transforming healthcare in regional and remote Western Australia," Catherine said.

"From nominees to finalists to winners, the calibre of those recognised is outstanding.

"Their professionalism, innovation, and dedication inspire us all, and their work underscores the vital role of rural healthcare in building healthier, more connected communities."

The WA Rural Health Excellence Awards are a testament to the collective efforts of WA Country Health Service and Rural Health West to support and recognise the healthcare professionals who provide vital services to rural and remote communities across WA.

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For more information about the awards and a full list of finalists, please contact:

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