



## Media Statement

26 February 2024

### Recognition for long-standing rural doctors

Fifty rural medical practitioners from across Western Australia were acknowledged for their outstanding commitment to rural healthcare at the WA Rural Health Long Service Awards on 23 February 2024.

Hosted by Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service, the annual awards spotlight the pivotal role long-serving medical professionals play in sustaining the health, vitality and resilience of rural communities.

Acknowledging milestones of 20, 30, and 40 years in rural medicine, the awards honour doctors who have devoted decades to serving the unique healthcare needs of rural areas.

For the first time, the awards also include Perth based medical specialists who have been providing long-term visiting services to rural communities, with several recipients supporting rural communities for more than 40 years.

This year, the awards will celebrate 40 years of service by resident rural doctors Dr Thomas Cottee, Dr James Lie and Dr Mark Zafir, alongside their visiting counterparts Professor Harvey Coates, Dr John Hayes and Dr Robert Langlands.

A further 19 medical practitioners have provided 30 years of service, with 25 doctors reaching a 20-year milestone.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton congratulated the recipients for their outstanding contributions.

“A long-standing local doctor who knows and understands the community and the families they care for makes a tremendous difference to the health and wellbeing of their patients,” Mr Shackleton said.

“These doctors have had a profound impact on the health and well-being of many, many people over many years. We are honoured to celebrate their achievements through these awards.”

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet praised all award recipients and acknowledged the important role they play in the sustainability of country hospitals and health services.

“WA Country Health Service is the largest rural health jurisdiction in Australia, and one of the biggest in the world,” Mr Moffet said.

“Put simply, without clinicians like our Long Service Award recipients, caring for rural and remote communities would be even more challenging.

“They play such a fundamental role in advancing the health outcomes in the bush, but also support our hospitals and health services on a day-to-day basis.

“On behalf of the entire WA Country Health Service, thank you for all you’ve done, and continue to do.”

### **Recipients of the Long Service Awards include:**

#### **Wheatbelt**

##### 20 year recipients

- Dr Paul Gallacher, Toodyay
- Dr Petrus Lotter, Katanning

#### **South West**

##### 40 year recipients

- Dr Thomas Cottee, South West Gynaecology, Bunbury

##### 30 year recipients

- Dr Anthony King, Bunbury \*
- Dr John Robinson, Henty \*

##### 20 year recipients

- Dr Sharyn Bennier, Margaret River
- Dr Mark Burrows, St John of God Healthcare Bunbury \*
- Dr Helena Hamilton Wright, SKG Radiology, Bunbury \*
- Dr Michael Hoar, Bridgetown \*
- Dr Rachel Jackson, Dalyellup \*
- Dr Andrew Kirke, Gelorup \*
- Dr Christopher Lewis, Bunbury
- Dr Christopher Low, South West Eye Surgeons - Bunbury
- Dr Michael Pether, St John of God Healthcare Bunbury
- Dr Darryn Rennie, Gelorup
- Dr Richard Roddy, Margaret River

#### **Great Southern**

##### 40 year recipients

- Dr James Lie, Locum, Albany \*
- Dr Mark Zafir, The Surgery - Spencer Park, Albany \*

##### 20 year recipients

- Dr Meryl Broughton, Warrenup \*
- Dr Nicolas Du Preez, Katanning \*
- Dr Stephen Gust, Albany
- Dr Airell Hodgkinson, Albany \*
- Dr Stephen Lee, Albany
- Dr Hermanus Lochner, Manus, Hopetoun \*
- Dr Virginia Grace Longley, Denmark

## **Kimberley**

20 year recipient

- Dr Florian Brincker, Derby

## **Midwest**

30 year recipients

- Dr Susan Downes, Northam \*
- Dr Craig Drummond, Dongara

20 year recipient

- Dr John Mateljan, Geraldton

## **Pilbara**

30 year recipients

- Dr Tony Kierath, Karratha

20 year recipient

- Dr Greg Murphy, Barrow Island

## **Goldfields**

30 year recipients

- Dr John Spencer, Esperance

## **Mandurah**

30 year recipients

- Dr Malcolm Broom, Mandurah \*
- Dr Neels Myburgh, Halls Head

20 year recipient

- Dr Soma Padminie Kain, Dawesville \*
- Dr Peter Kell, Mandurah
- Dr Huan Nguyen, Mandurah

## **Specialists from Perth metropolitan region delivering long term visiting services to country communities**

40 year recipient

- Clinical Professor Harvey Coates, Paediatric ENT Services, Cottesloe \*
- Dr John Hayes, West Leederville \*
- Dr Robert Langlands

### 30 year recipients

- Dr Digby Cullen, Subiaco
- Dr Michael Davis, Perth Cardiovascular Institute, Nedlands \*
- Dr Luigi D'Orsogna, Western Cardiology, Wembley \*
- Dr Graham Forward, Shenton Park
- Dr Mark Hands, Western Cardiology, Wembley
- Dr Brian Hutchison, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands \*
- Dr James Ramsay, Perth Children's Hospital, Nedlands \*
- Dr Craig Smith, West Perth \*
- Clinical Professor Mark Thomas, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth
- Associate Professor Rob Will, Victoria Park

\* *Photo available*

### ENDS

#### **Media enquiries:**

Belinda Cipriano, Rural Health West

6389 4568

Chloe Lawler, WA Country Health Service

0467 499 525