



Media Statement

4/11/2025

Thousands of health professionals now connected through WA's largest rural health network

Western Australia's largest health professional network has just surpassed 5,000 members, marking a new era of connection and transforming healthcare delivery across regional WA.

The milestone highlights the growing strength of the network, which provides vital peer connection, professional development opportunities, and access to resources for health professionals working in some of the State's most isolated regions.

As of November 4, 2025 - 5095 doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and students are now part of the HPNs, representing every region of rural WA.

These include 1,325 members in the South West, 543 for the Great Southern, 365 in the Wheatbelt, 907 in the Pilbara, 855 in the Kimberley, 570 in the Midwest-Gascoyne and 530 in the Goldfields.

Rural Health West Education and Engagement General Manager Leesa Thomas, said the milestone demonstrated the critical role the HPNs plays in supporting the rural health workforce.

"To reach 5000 members is an incredible achievement and shows how valuable this network has become for health professionals working in rural and remote WA," she said.

"The HPNs are about more than just numbers. It's about building community, creating opportunities for connection, and making sure our health professionals feel supported, whether they're new graduates starting their careers in the bush or experienced clinicians working in some of our most remote regions.

"This milestone also reflects the commitment of our members, who continually give back to their communities and to each other. A connected, supported workforce means better health outcomes for rural patients."

The HPNs supports members by building communities of practice, improving access to mentoring, networking, and professional development, as well as opportunities to collaborate through events, workshops and online platforms.

The networks has grown steadily in recent years, with the support of sector-wide partners including Rural Health West, WA Country Health Service, WA Primary Health Alliance, St John WA, AMA (WA), the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the Rural Clinical School of WA, University Departments of Rural Health and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners alongside numerous local and regional organisations. helping to reduce professional isolation and strengthen retention of health professionals in rural WA.



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Rural Health West aims to improve access to quality healthcare for rural communities through the provision of a highly skilled, motivated and sustainable medical and allied health workforce. We are a not-for-profit organisation primarily funded through the WA Country Health Service and the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.