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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH  
**EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

## Media Statement

5/12/2025

### **Finalists announced for 2026 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards**

From inspiring leaders to rising stars, 33 of WA's finest rural health professionals and teams have been named finalists for the 2026 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards.

Hosted by WA Country Health Service and Rural Health West, the awards honour those whose passion and innovation keep rural and remote communities healthy.

The awards recognise both established leaders and emerging health professionals who go above and beyond to ensure equitable care for country communities.

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet said the awards highlight the essential role of health professionals working outside metropolitan areas.

"A career in healthcare comes with a unique set of challenges and requires a special combination of tenacity, resilience, people skills and professionalism," Mr Moffet said.

"We see nominations come through from people who work in some of the most remote places in Western Australia and it gets harder each year to choose finalists and winners as we read about these incredibly dedicated, compassionate people."

"Healthcare is a constantly evolving field. Our staff are committed to ongoing education and skill improvement, paired with a desire to help others and serve the communities they live in."

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Professor Catherine Elliott commended the calibre of this year's finalists.

"The WA Rural Health Excellence Awards are about celebrating the people who embody the heart and spirit of rural healthcare," she said.

"Whether it's a doctor, nurse, allied health professional or an entire team, these finalists reflect the extraordinary talent, skill and dedication we are privileged to have in rural WA.

"Their work is not only life-changing for patients but vital to the sustainability of our rural health workforce."

Finalists were selected by a panel of clinicians and representatives from rural health organisations.

Winners will be announced at a gala ceremony during the WA Rural Health Conference on Saturday, 14 March 2026.

## 2026 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards Finalists

<b>Category</b>	<b>Finalists</b>
<b>Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vernon Dann: (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• Jody Hansen: (GOLDFIELDS)</li> <li>• Peter Yarran: (GOLDFIELDS)</li> </ul>
<b>Allied Health Professional of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn Braysich: (MIDWEST)</li> <li>• Deep (Deepinder) Rosha: (SOUTHWEST)</li> <li>• Claire Thistleton: (KIMBERLEY)</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Leader of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samantha Barba: (PILBARA)</li> <li>• Cristina Taucan: (SOUTHWEST)</li> <li>• Kim Tracey: (SOUTHWEST)</li> </ul>
<b>Community Health Professional of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jemma Mustey: (GREAT SOUTHERN)</li> <li>• Sarah Tomlinson: (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• Sarah Youngson: (SOUTHWEST)</li> </ul>
<b>GP of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Ajit Chaurasia: (WHEATBELT)</li> <li>• Dr Carly Roxburgh (GREAT SOUTHERN)</li> <li>• Dr Richard Taylor: (MIDWEST)</li> </ul>
<b>Health Team of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juniper Guwardi Ngadu: (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• South West Aboriginal Medical Service – Child Health Team: (SOUTHWEST)</li> <li>• WA Country Health Service South West – Older Person Complex Care Team (OPCC): (SW)</li> </ul>
<b>Nurse or Midwife of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Darlington (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• Tania Murphy (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Amy Pedersen (PILBARA)</li> </ul>
<b>Specialist (Non-GP) of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacinta Cover (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Allison Morton (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Tom Bowles (GREAT SOUTHERN)</li> </ul>

<b>Young Health Professional of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua Briotti (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• Emma Calusinski (PILBARA)</li> <li>• Rosalie Gent (GOLDFIELDS)</li> </ul>
<b>WACHS Intern of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicolas Ceravolo (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Connor Earnshaw (KIMBERLEY)</li> <li>• Joshua Luhrs (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Celia Wong (MIDWEST)</li> </ul>
<b>WACHS RMO of the Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Daly (SOUTH WEST)</li> <li>• Lewis Weeda (KIMBERLEY)</li> </ul>

**ENDS**

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