

16 February 2026

## **Honouring decades of dedication to rural health**

A career in rural health care requires a robust combination of compassion, dedication and commitment, characteristics embodied by the 38 medical practitioners from across Western Australia who were recognised at the 2026 WA Rural Health Long Service Awards held on Friday 13 February.

The annual awards, hosted by Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service, acknowledged milestones of 20, 30, 40 and 50 years in rural medicine.

They recognised each recipient's extraordinary commitment to rural healthcare and their incredible contributions towards sustaining the health, wellbeing and resilience of rural communities, and serving their unique healthcare needs.

This year's cohort includes a remarkable 50-year milestone for Dr John Rosser Davies, as well as 40 years of service by resident rural doctors Dr Chris Hartley and Dr Clyde Jumeaux.

A further eight medical practitioners reached 30 years of service, while 27 were acknowledged for 20 years.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Professor Catherine Elliott commended this year's recipients for their outstanding contributions and dedication to rural WA.

"Across WA there are doctors who have built deep, trusted relationships with their communities that ultimately shape better health outcomes," Professor Elliott said.

"Their continuity of service, advocacy and compassion strengthens the fabric of rural health, and we are incredibly proud to honour their contribution."

Professor Elliott also highlighted Dr Rosser Davies' extraordinary 50 years of service.

"To dedicate half a century to rural medicine is an exceptional achievement," she said.

"Dr Rosser Davies' commitment, expertise and generosity have made a great impact on the lives of countless patients, colleagues and communities."

WA Country Health Service Chief Executive Jeff Moffet praised all award recipients and recognised the significant role they play in supporting country communities and health services.

“These incredible doctors have turned up for their communities year after year, offering stability and continuity of care to the residents of some of our most rural and remote areas.

“It speaks volumes to their steadfast commitment to the communities they serve that we’re celebrating such impressive milestones.

“Their compassion and dedication are central to the delivery of excellent healthcare in the bush.

“On behalf of everyone at WA Country Health Service, I’d like to pass on our thanks for all they do to support the people of country WA,” Mr Moffet said.

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

#### **GOLDFIELDS**

##### **30-year recipients**

- Dr Mike Mears (Esperance)

##### **20-year recipients**

- Dr Simon Evans (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*
- Dr Stephen Gann (Jigalong, Newman and Norseman)\*
- Dr Rachel Hammond (Leinster)
- Dr Paula Kearns (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*

#### **KIMBERLEY**

##### **20-year recipients**

- Dr Alexandra Balzarelli (Wyndham)
- Dr Simon Evans (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*
- Dr Wijnand Hanekamp (Broome)
- Dr Paula Kearns (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*
- Dr Casey Parker (Broome)

## **MANDURAH**

### **30-year recipients**

- Dr Stephen Bailey (Mandurah)

### **20-year recipients**

- Dr Gerard Maguire (Halls Head)
- Dr Gig Pisano (Mandurah)
- Dr Sonia Sahu (Mandurah)
- Dr Mathys Van der Merwe (Mandurah)

## **MIDWEST**

### **30-year recipients**

- Dr Tonya Constantine (Geraldton)
- Dr Phillip King (Meekatharra)

### **20-year recipients**

- Dr Geert Dijkwel (Carnarvon)
- Dr CH Khong (Geraldton)
- Dr Anna Stuart (Mount Magnet)

## **PILBARA**

### **40-year recipient**

- Dr Clyde Jumeaux (Bunbury and Karratha)\*

### **20-year recipients**

- Dr Stephen Gann (Jigalong, Newman and Norseman)\*
- Dr Cynthia Leeuwin (South Hedland)

## **SOUTH WEST**

### **50-year recipient**

- Dr John Rosser Davies (Manjimup)

### **40-year recipients**

- Dr Chris Hartley (Eaton)
- Dr Clyde Jumeaux (Bunbury and Karratha)\*

### **30-year recipients**

- Dr Paul Buckeridge (Dunsborough)

## **20-year recipients**

- Dr Julie Bourne (Bunbury)
- Dr Adam Coulson (Busselton)
- Dr Sanet Du Plessis (Busselton)
- Dr Simon Evans (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*
- Dr Tsoake Azer Faso (Bunbury)
- Dr Martin Gadd (Bunbury)
- Dr Anne Giele (Busselton)
- Dr Peter Ginbey (Busselton)
- Dr Christopher Jensen (Dunsborough)
- Dr Paula Kearns (Derby, Dunsborough and Kalgoorlie)\*
- Dr Terry Knight (Donnybrook)
- Dr Carolyn Waller (Busselton)
- Dr Clare Willix (Bunbury)
- Dr Sarah Anne Youngson (Bridgetown)

## **SPECIALISTS FROM PERTH METROPOLITAN REGION DELIVERING LONG-TERM VISITING SERVICES TO COUNTRY COMMUNITIES**

## **30-year recipients**

- Dr Jack Edelman (Serves in Bunbury)
- Clinical Associate Professor Peter Kendall (Narrogin)
- Mr Michael Wren (Serves in Merredin)

*\*These LSA recipients have worked across multiple locations and have been listed under each region they have served.*

*\*\*Photos available*

**ENDS**

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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.*