



# Media Statement

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MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Goldfields community strengthened through the work of Health Professionals Networks**

Health professionals and their families across the Goldfields are feeling more connected to their communities than ever with the help of Rural Health West's Health Professionals Networks.

A Western Australian initiative, the Health Professionals Networks (HPNs) play a critical role in workforce retention by ensuring health professionals feel connected, supported, and part of their local health community.

Since the HPNs inception in 2019, the networks have improved access to professional development and combatted isolation across rural and remote WA by uniting 5,475 health professionals and their families.

Goldfields HPN Regional Program Coordinator Hayley Selleck, based in Kalgoorlie, said she began with 80 members and is now close to 600.

"The numbers are great, but it's the local connections and the impact on the ground, in the community that makes a difference," Hayley said.

A recent member survey found that more than half (51 per cent) of respondents stated that the HPNs had influenced them to stay working in rural WA.

It also found that 75 per cent agreed participation supported long-term career development and workforce retention, and 94 per cent would recommend HPN membership to their colleagues.

In the past year, 115 education activities and networking events were delivered across the state. Local learning and community needs are tailored by regional steering committees.

This week our staff attended CRANA+ national 2026 Remote Nursing & Midwifery Conference to promote and share the latest on the Health Professionals Networks (HPNs).

General Manager, Education and Engagement Leesa Thomas said WA professionals at CRANA+ Conference raved about their local HPN and the support they provide to the people delivering healthcare in regional WA.

"They love that the HPNs deliver a majority of education face-to-face, rather than online," Leesa said.

“Interstate health professionals are coming to us and saying, ‘how can we get this in our state?’

“We could not do this without the support of our partners. This collaborative model is instrumental in ensuring the success of the HPNs.”

**ENDS**

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