Media Statement

11 November 2026

6,000-strong: Health Professionals Networks reaches member milestone

A network to attract and keep health professionals in rural and remote areas through connecting through networking, education, professional development, collaboration and information sharing has reached a significant milestone, surpassing 6,000 members.

The Health Professionals Network is a collaboration between a number of like-minded organisations, led by Rural Health West. Statewide partners include, WA Country Health Service, WA Primary Health Alliance, St John WA and the Rural Clinical School of WA; with Associate and Regional partners including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Australian Medical Association WA, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Western Operations) and the Majarlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health.

The HPN cracked 5,000 members just 12 months ago, marking a period of staggering growth across the seven regions, demonstrating how deeply members value the connection and services.

The news comes as membership numbers in the Kimberley, Pilbara and South West all hit milestone, reaching 1,000, 1,100 and 1,500 members respectively.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer, Professor Catherine Elliott said the Health Professionals Networks play an important role in ensuring health professionals have access to local education, training and community networking, promoting knowledge translation and ultimately enhanced patient care.

"We survey our members every year to ensure we are meeting their needs. Our most recent survey found 73 per cent of respondents believed HPN participation supported their long-term career development and workforce retention in rural areas.

"Eighty-nine per cent of members said HPN participation helped build professional connections with other health disciplines while 84 per cent believed HPN activities improved access to professional knowledge and resources."

The HPN program also aligns with elements of the WA State Health Workforce Strategy 2034, which focuses on Attraction, Retention, Leadership, and Partnerships.

You can join the Health Professionals Networks or learn more here: Health Professionals Networks – WA – Building stronger partnerships in regional Australia

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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.*