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Skills by the Sea Conference a great success

Rural Health West hosted over 80 delegates at its Skills by the Sea Conference held in Fremantle on 17 October 2015. General practitioners travelled from all parts of Western Australia and participated in one of six professional development workshops providing clinical updates and hands-on experience. The workshops were designed to give doctors working in rural and remote areas relevant knowledge to assist them in country general practices and rural hospitals as they contend with a diverse range of clinical cases on a daily basis.

All workshop streams were well attended and included procedural dermatology, palliative care, obstetrics ultrasound, surgical and practical medicine, paediatric and ENT updates and cardiac emergencies. In some streams practical learning was required, such as live ultrasound scanning for third trimester pregnancies, perfecting suturing and stitching techniques and practising plastering skills.

The workshops were facilitated by specialists of their field and general practitioners who gave their time to teach rural doctors new skills and pass on their expertise. Without exception the doctors mentioned how relevant the workshops were to their learning needs and that the standard of education was excellent.

Delegates also had the opportunity to network with colleagues from different practices around the state and liaise with the organisations who exhibited at the conference. Rural Health West acknowledges the support received from exhibitors and the facilitators, and thanks them for their time and attendance. The feedback from rural and remote doctors who attended has been positive and the one-day event was overall a great success.

“Enjoyable, informative, well presented at an excellent pace,” reported one delegate.

Rural Health West is hosting its final conference for 2015 in November. The Wilderness Medicine Conference will be held in Margaret River and places for this event are filling quickly.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Clare Underdown, Communications and Marketing Manager 0477 313 959

As the leading rural health workforce agency for Western Australia, Rural Health West is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments responsible for the recruitment and retention of a highly skilled sustainable health workforce to meet the needs to rural and remote Western Australians communities.