

21/03/2016

### **Extraordinary Rural Doctors Awarded**

Professor Geoffrey Riley, one of the unsung heroes of rural medicine, has been recognised for his contributions over four decades to supporting, mentoring and educating his rural colleagues at this year's Rural Health West Doctors' Service Awards.

The annual awards recognise and reward the extraordinary and long-term contributions of doctors working in rural, regional and remote Western Australia. The awards are sponsored by Wesfarmers and WA Country Health Service and were presented by Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General of the WA Department of Health.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton said rural doctors are critically important to the health, well-being and sustainability of regional communities.

"Their contribution cannot be overstated, and yet they are typically humble about the role they play in country communities," said Tim.

"Professor Riley has dedicated his career not just to serving his patients, but also to serving his profession, and as such we have awarded him a Lifetime Membership Award for his contribution to rural medicine.

"He has been heavily involved in training a generation of medical students while Associate Dean of the Medical School at University of Western Australia, and Head of the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia.

"He is known for being calm, generous and wise and has been an unswerving advocate for the medical profession and the importance of rural practice," he said.

A trained psychiatrist, Professor Riley has also been involved in providing personal support to colleagues.

"The Rural Health West Awards are a rare opportunity to shine the spotlight on the extraordinary work they do, celebrate their achievements and to demonstrate how much they are valued by the communities they serve," said Tim.

Rural Health West is the leading health workforce agency in Western Australia, focused on the attraction and retention of health professionals to rural and remote Western Australian communities.

Fourteen other country doctors from across the State were also recognised at this year's awards.

## **RURAL HEALTH WEST 2016 DOCTORS SERVICE AWARDS**

### **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

Professor Geoffrey Riley AM

### **SPECIAL AWARDS – SPONSORED BY WESFARMERS**

Dr Barney McCallum – Outstanding service to rural and remote health

Dr Christina Herceg – Remote and clinically challenging medicine

Dr Johan Janssen – Extraordinary contribution to outreach services

### **SPECIAL AWARDS – SPONSORED BY WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE**

Dr Michael Comparti – Above and beyond – Community First

Dr Suzanne Phillips – Outstanding hospital doctor

### **30 YEAR RECIPIENTS**

Dr Michael Comparti

Dr Ross Henderson

Dr Clyde Jumeaux

### **20 YEAR RECIPIENTS**

Dr Stephen Bailey

Dr Tonya Constantine

Dr Donald Howarth

Dr Christine McConnell

Dr Michael Mears

Dr Alice Tippets

Dr Lorin Monck

## **ENDS**

*Further information about the award recipients and interview opportunities available*

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*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 Australian communities.*