

21/03/2016

### **Extraordinary Rural Doctors Awarded**

Fifteen rural doctors have been recognised for their outstanding service to rural communities at this year's Rural Health West Doctors' Service awards held on 19 March.

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 very humble about the role they play in country communities," said Tim.

"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."

Three doctors were recognised for serving rural communities for 30 years, and seven doctors were recognised for 20 years' service.

In addition, six doctors were recognised for the exemplary contributions to rural and remote medicine.

Professor Geoffrey Riley AM, one of the unsung heroes of rural medicine, was recognised for his contributions over four decades to supporting, mentoring and educating his rural colleagues with the Lifetime Membership Award.

Obstetrician Dr Barney McCallum was the recipient of the Outstanding Service to Rural and Remote Health award, in recognition of long-time support of providing outreach obstetric services to Goldfields communities.

Dr Johan Janssen was recognised for his Extraordinary Contribution to Outreach Services for his role in providing cardiology and renal medicine throughout the Midwest and Goldfields, enabling patients to access care closer to home.

Dr Christina Herceg received the award for Remote and Clinically Challenging Medicine for her long-time devotion to working in remote Aboriginal communities across the Kimberley.

Dr Michael Comparti was given the Award for Above and Beyond – Community First for being a passionate contributor to health care beyond his immediate practice in Bunbury and his enthusiasm for supporting and educating student and junior doctors.

Dr Suzanne Phillips was recognised as Outstanding Doctor for her willingness to pitch in and support patients and her peers at Broome Regional Hospital.

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.

## **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

### **20 YEAR RECIPIENTS**

Dr Stephen Bailey

Dr Tonya Constantine

Dr Donald Howarth

Dr Christine McConnell

Dr Michael Mears

Dr Alice Tippets

Dr Lorin Monck

### **30 YEAR RECIPIENTS**

Dr Michael Comparti

Dr Ross Henderson

Dr Clyde Jumeaux

## **ENDS**

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

### **Media enquiries:**

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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.*