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Wheatbelt local wins state-wide award

A general practice manager from the Wheatbelt region has been recognised for her outstanding service to her regional community.

Ms Samantha Aurisch, Practice Manager from Bruce Rock Health Centre, has received the Rural Health West Rural General Practice Manager Award for 2016.

Sponsored by MDA National, the state-wide annual awards acknowledge and reward the integral role that practice managers play in ensuring rural general practices provide a sustainable service for their communities.

Ms Aurisch has proven her impact upon the community through her professionalism and work ethic, with both doctors and colleagues from the practice writing outstanding testimonials.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton stated that general practice managers play a vital role in the health and well-being of rural patients.

“Ms Aurisch’s ongoing dedication enables this small rural practice to continue to service the people of this community. Rural Health West works closely with many rural general practices to support their doctors and staff, so we see first-hand the outstanding commitment they have to their communities,” said Tim.

“This award recognises Ms Aurisch’s commitment to ensuring the ongoing organisation of the practice, her high level of knowledge, and the critical role she plays in training and advising new staff; and ensuring patients always receive a quality service from the practice.”

In the award nomination, her colleagues noted that Ms Aurisch is a considerate and kind individual, constantly putting the needs of others before herself, and that she goes beyond the call of her duties to ensure everyone is well-looked after. Ms Aurisch has been a loyal employee to the practice, having worked there for 19 years, with the exceptional ability to relate to colleagues and patients at all levels.

Two other rural general practice managers were recognised in this year’s awards. Ms Christine Venkatachalam from Denmark practice Dr J.A. James Surgery, and Ms Jill Pontague from Busselton Medical Practice in Busselton, received Certificates of Recognition for their service to rural Western Australia.

“Sustaining a dynamic surgery in rural areas can be difficult and a capable and diverse practice manager is integral to ongoing success.

“Congratulations to Ms Aurisch, Ms Venkatachalam and Ms Pontague for their outstanding efforts,” said Tim.

Ms Samantha Aurisch will be presented her Award by Rural Health West and MDA National on Thursday 5 May 2016 at the Bruce Rock Health Centre. Local media are invited to attend the ceremony, where Rural Health West Workforce Services Manager Ms Laura Harnett will be available for interview and photographs, along with Ms Samantha Aurisch.

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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.