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Rural doctors to hear from imprisoned journalist Peter Greste

Imprisoned in an Egyptian jail for 400 days, Australian journalist Peter Greste is the epitome of resilience, perseverance and bravery.

Rural medical and health professionals will have an incredible opportunity to hear a first-hand account of Mr Greste's experience and fight for freedom at the 2017 Rural Health West Annual Conference and Annual Doctors' Service Awards from 8 to 9 April.

Mr Greste will share how he dealt with the isolation, uncertainty and periods of doubt as he and his supporters fought for the release of Mr Greste and his two Al Jazeera colleagues.

Rural Health West Chief Executive Officer Tim Shackleton said it's an honour to secure a speaker of Peter Greste's calibre for the 2017 conference themed "*Embracing the Unexpected; the unpredictable world of rural health care*".

"Rural doctors often do it tougher than their metropolitan counterparts. Professional isolation is one of their greatest challenges, with resilience, adaptability and good support systems acting as important protective and supportive factors," said Tim.

"Rural doctors tell us they attend our annual conference not only for upskilling, but also for the opportunity to network with their colleagues, which helps to revitalize them for the year ahead.

"We hope this opportunity to hear from Peter Greste will inspire our rural doctors and provide insight into how he dealt with constant uncertainty while detained in Egypt," he said.

Rural Health West's annual conference brings together more than 150 rural doctors and medical professionals from across Western Australia for upskilling and networking opportunities.

The 2017 conference provides presentations and clinical workshops on topics including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, sports medicine, managing methamphetamine use, Ear, Nose and Throat emergencies, managing obesity and guided ultrasounds, to support doctors to provide this care to their patients closer to home.

Visit www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/conferences for the full program and registrations.

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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.