



Media Statement

11/10/2016

New role for highly respected South West doctor

Respected local general practitioner, Dr Andrew Kirke was today announced as the newest member of Rural Health West's Board of Directors.

Dr Kirke is a passionate supporter of the rural health sector and his new appointment is a natural extension of the many roles he plays in ensuring rural communities have access to safe, quality medical care.

Rural Health West Chairman Grant Woodhams said Dr Kirke will be a valuable asset, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board.

"Dr Kirke is an incredibly generous contributor to rural health, actively promoting rural medical careers to the next generation of young doctors through his involvement with the Rural Clinical School in Bunbury and as vice president of the Rural Doctors Association of WA," said Mr Woodhams.

"We're very pleased to welcome him to the Board and look forward to his contribution".

Dr Kirke said he is looking forward to working with Rural Health West and helping to deliver the organisation's mission of ensuring country communities have equitable access to quality medical care.

"I'm very pleased to be joining the Rural Health West Board of Directors. I'm passionate about rural medicine, hence my involvement with the Rural Clinical School, the Rural Doctors Association and as a GP registrar supervisor while working at the Dalyellup Family Medical Centre.

"We've got some terrific and enthusiastic young doctors coming through the education and training system. Rural Health West is very active in promoting rural medicine to students and junior doctors through initiatives such as Choose Country. I'm looking forward to being able to provide insight and guidance on these programs."

Current Rural Health West Director, Lynette Baker was also re-elected to the Board. Ms Baker is the President of the Shire of Corrigin and is actively involved in many medical advisory committees.

"Ms Baker has experienced first-hand the challenges of recruiting and retaining doctors in small country towns through her role with the Shire of Corrigin. I'm

very pleased that she will continue to be involved with the Board,” Mr Woodhams said.

Dr Kirke replaces outgoing Director Dr Michiel Mel. Dr Mel served as a Director since 2014 and shares Dr Kirke’s keen interest in teaching and supporting the next generation of rural doctors.

“Dr Mel has been a valuable and active contributor to Board discussions and deliberations. On behalf of Rural Health West, I express our appreciation for his involvement and guidance over the past two years,” Mr Woodhams said.

ENDS



Photo: Dr Andrew Kirke

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Rural Health West is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for recruiting and retaining a highly skilled sustainable health workforce that meets the healthcare needs of rural and remote communities in Western Australia. We are primarily funded through the WA Country Health Service and the Australian Government Department of Health.