

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Victoria's rural health professionals honoured in Creswick**

The Victorian Rural Health Awards was held for the thirteenth year to recognise the outstanding commitment and dedication of health professionals working in rural Victoria. Twenty five awards were presented to rural doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, practice managers and medical specialists. A gala dinner was held at the Creswick on the 28 April 2018.

The Victorian Rural Health Awards is hosted by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) and sponsored by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. The awards were signed by Hon Daniel Andrews and were presented by Ms Gabrielle Williams MP, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Health.

The award recipients have made a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of their local communities. The awards honour exceptional medical specialists, GPs, nurses, Aboriginal health workers, general practices, practice managers, allied health professionals and medical and nursing students working across rural Victoria.

More than 170 guests attended the ceremony representing health service providers, local community leaders, award recipients' friends, colleagues and families.

"We celebrate GPs, rural GP locums and medical specialists, who not only go beyond their call of duty but also support each other and mentor the next generation of health professionals. We value allied health workers, nurses, practice managers, and Aboriginal health workers who provide invaluable support and expertise to build strong healthcare teams. Each of these health professional's collective efforts deliver a high quality and sustainable healthcare system for rural Victoria" said RWAV Chair, Yousuf Ahmad.

Every year nominations are put forward by members of the public, community organisations and local healthcare providers and are assessed by an independent panel of judges. Nominations open in October of each year and RWAV encourages the public to nominate local healthcare professionals who provide vital health services to rural and remote communities.

List of Award Winners

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Address 3</b>
Ms	Julie	Steele	Practice Manager Award	Maffra VIC 3860
	Gateway Health Medical Practice Wodonga		General Practice Award	Wodonga, 3690
Mrs	Christine	Smith	Nursing Award	Mooroopna Vic 3629
Ms	Elisha	Price	Nursing Student Award	Trafalgar VIC 3824
Ms	Norma	Oliver	Rural Aboriginal Health Award	Echuca VIC 3564
Dr	Andrew	Wai-Ming See	Medical Specialist Award	East Melbourne VIC 3002
Dr	Elizabeth	Kennedy	Rural Doctor- Outstanding Contribution	Shepparton VIC 3630
Dr	Lalani	Udalamatta	Rural Doctor- Outstanding Contribution	Edenhope VIC 3318
Dr	Gavin	Cuff	Rural Doctor- Outstanding Contribution	Maryborough VIC 3465
Dr	Brian	Hepper	Rural Doctor- Outstanding Contribution	Creswick VIC 3363
Ms	Jessica	Paynter	Medical Student Award	Nyah VIC 3594
Ms	Emily	Luke	Allied Health Professional Award	Reservoir Vic 3073
Dr	Timothy	Watford	Length of Service Award	Omeo, VIC 3898

Dr	John	Buckley	Length of Service Award	Merbein, VIC 3505
Dr	Rebecca	Dale	Length of Service Award	Castlemaine, VIC 3450
Dr	Roderic	Booth	Length of Service Award	Swan Hill, VIC 3585
Dr	Bala	Pillai	Length of Service Award	Echuca, VIC 3564
Dr	Cleopas	Sahhar	Length of Service Award	Warragul VIC 3820
Dr	Robert	Peterson	Length of Service Award	Seymour, VIC 3660
Dr	Ray	Moore	Rural Doctor- Outstanding Contribution	Bendigo VIC 3550
Dr	Elizabeth	Perry	Length of Service Award	Wangaratta, VIC 3677
Dr	John	Barry	Length of Service Award	Swan Hill, VIC 3585
Dr	David	Leembruggen	Length of Service Award	Warrnambool VIC 3280
Dr	Ann	Miller	Length of Service Award	Sale VIC 3850
Dr	Simon	Davis	Length of Service Award	Yackandandah, VIC 3749

Further information: [www.rwav.com.au](http://www.rwav.com.au)

Interview Opportunity: Yousuf Ahmad – Chair, RWAV

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RWAV is a non-profit government funded organisation improving the health workforce for rural, regional and Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

**Picture attached**