

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**11 May 2009**

## **Moe GP Honoured**

The 2009 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards acknowledged Moe GP Ehab Mostokly for his commitment to the region, at a ceremony in Melbourne on the weekend.

Doctor Mostokly received the New Rural Doctor Award for his dedication to the community and contribution to teaching International Medical Graduates.

Victorian rural doctors were nominated by their peers, patients and local community members in three categories, 35 Years Service to Rural Communities, for *Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities* or as a *New Rural Doctor*.

Health Minister, Hon. Daniel Andrews presented the doctors and their families with the awards in front of 225 guests at a gala dinner.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) chief executive Claire Austin explains the Awards' significance.

"The Awards provide an opportunity to pause and reflect on the contributions that our doctors and their families make to Victoria.

"Additionally, the Awards offer Victorians a way of saying 'thanks' to a corner stone of the population that sustain local communities in so many ways," Ms Austin said.

The 2009 Award recipients were from all corners of the state including, Ballarat, Sale, Lorne, St Leonards, Elmore, Ouyen, Traralgar, Mount Beauty, Beechworth, Wangaratta, Portland, Lakes Entrance, Benalla, Phillip Island, Traralgon and Camperdown.

RWAV chairman Dr Philip Webster also paid tribute to this year's recipients.

"As is the nature of general practice and medicine these contributions have been diverse and broad ranging.

"Amongst all the recipients honoured, the common thread was doctors sustaining their local community," Dr Webster said.

An awards panel comprising RWAV, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria Australian Medical Association Vic and Rural Medical Family Network representatives assessed nominees against the criteria for each of the categories.

The Awards were proudly sponsored by Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), a statutory body established to provide risk management consultancy, insurance and site risk surveys to Victorian State Government departments and agencies.

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**Background information****Dr Ehab Mostokly, Moe – New Rural Doctor**

I was born and trained in Egypt, and come to Australia in 2004.

I commenced practice in Australia during 2006.

After two years of hospital work, I realised I missed working in a clinic. So, with the help of RWAV, I started working at the Moe Medical Group where I now work every day, and at a smaller clinic at Rawson doing one morning shift every week, and another weekly shift at Saint Lukes Medical Centre in Traralgon.

It has never been strange for me to work in a rural setting - I did that 20 years ago when I started my first job in Egypt after finishing my internship. It was compulsory to work one year in a government rural clinic. I enjoyed it so much I extended to three years. I encouraged my wife, also a doctor, to join me there and, when I left the clinic to go back to the city and take my masters degree in paediatrics, I left my rural clinic to my brother - he is a doctor too.

Practising in a rural community is different than from the city. Driving my car every day in a small town with no traffic and enjoying the clean air and the peaceful, quiet environment is wonderful.

Most importantly, you are closer to your patients. You see them in the clinic and you meet them in the street. I have had wonderful professional and family support. I love my patients and they love me too. The feeling that I can help makes me feel closer to them.

Whenever I teach other overseas trained doctors, I speak with them about life in a rural general practice and how happy I am.

*“Working in a rural area makes me feel that I am not only responsible for my patients’ medical issues but also for their social issues. Supporting them medically and emotionally in a close community is very important to me,” Dr Mostokly said.*