

MEDIA RELEASE

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RURAL DOCTORS' AWARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) is calling on Victorian communities to get behind the 2009 Rural Doctors' Awards and nominate a rural doctor who deserves recognition.

RWAV chief executive, Claire Austin explains the Awards' importance.

"The annual Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards acknowledge the state's regional and rural doctors and their families for their dedication and commitment to their community.

"Doctors, their practice teams and families sustain our regions, so the Awards provide an opportunity for communities to say thanks", Ms Austin said.

Nominations are being accepted in three categories for a doctor who has:

- made an outstanding contribution to rural communities, or
- worked in rural health for less than two years and demonstrates strong community engagement beyond the "call of duty", or
- contributed 35 years or more service to rural communities.

Nomination guidelines for the three categories and applications forms are available at www.rwavconference.com.au. Nominations close 13 March 2009.

A gala awards ceremony will honour Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards recipients on Friday evening May 8, 2009 in Melbourne.

Doctors recognised in the 2008 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards herald from Apollo Bay, the Ballarat region, Moe, Mildura, Portland, Foster, Healesville, Omeo, Rupanyup, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Hamilton, Orbost, Colac, Wodonga, Kerang and Mansfield.

The 2009 Awards are sponsored by Victorian Managed Insurance Authority, a statutory body established to provide risk management consultancy, insurance and site risk surveys to Victorian State Government departments and agencies.

An awards panel comprising Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine, RWAV, Rural Medical Family Network, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Committee of Chairmen of Victorian State Committees of Medical Colleges, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria and Australian Medical Association Vic representatives will assess nominees against the criteria for each of the three categories.

The Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards form part of the annual RWAV conference which this year focuses on Teamwork for Better Health.

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Media enquiries: telephone RWAV media liaison Samantha Marnell on 0439 551 720

About RWAV – Rural Workforce Agency Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation working with communities that have underserved health needs. We do this through a number of initiatives that recruit, support and advocate for the health workforce throughout rural and regional Victoria.