



Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Hamilton Doctor Wins Award

Hamilton doctor Dale Ford was honoured for his outstanding service to the Victorian rural community at the prestigious, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) 2008 *Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards*, on Friday night in Melbourne.

Victorian rural doctors were nominated by their peers, patients and local community members in two categories, *35 Years of Service to Rural Communities* or *Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities*.

Dr Ford was one of ten recipients of the *Outstanding Service to Rural Communities* award.

Minister for Rural & Regional Development, the Hon. Jacinta Allan presented the doctors and their families with the awards at a gala dinner in the National Gallery of Victoria's Great Hall.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria's (RWAV) Chairman and Mildura General Practitioner, Dr Philip Webster commends the doctors and their families for their commitment to rural Victorians.

"Our annual awards are significant as they're an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and honour our doctors for their dedication to rural Victorians," Dr Webster said.

"More importantly, the doctors provide terrific role models that will inspire and enthuse our medical students to seriously consider a career as a rural GP."

The Awards were attended by 200 guests that included Award recipients and their families, health professionals from all disciplines and medical school students.

Other doctors who received an award herald from Apollo Bay, Ballarat, Mansfield, Wodonga, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Foster, Bendigo, Kerang, Portland, Mildura, Colac and Omeo.

An awards panel comprising Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine (ACCRM), RWAV, Rural Medical Family Network (RMFN), Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Committee of Chairmen of Victorian State Committees of Medical Colleges, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDAV) and Australian Medical Association Vic (AMA) representatives assessed each of the nominees against the criteria for each of the categories.

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For high resolution images or to discuss further story ideas please call Samantha Marnell on 0439 551 720.

Background information

Dr Dale Ford

Dr Dale Ford has lived and worked in general practice in Hamilton since 1982, and is the VMO for Intensive Care/CCU at Hamilton Hospital.

Dale teaches clinical programs for 4th year medical students from Flinders University's Parallel Rural Community Curriculum and was the inaugural Chair of the Greater Green Triangle GP Education & Training Program.

Dale was awarded Honorary Adjunct Senior Lecturer Status at Flinders University Medical School in 2004. The award by Flinders University was in recognition of Dale's outstanding role as a clinical leader in Greater Green Triangle Region.

Dale played a major part in bringing medical student teaching to Hamilton and has been a keen supporter of Greater Health.

In July 2007, he was appointed as Clinical Advisor to the Improvement Foundation Australia.