



Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Healesville Doctor Wins Award

Healesville doctor Elroy Schroeder 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 Schroeder received his award for *35 Years Service to Rural Communities*.

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, Colac, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Wodonga, Bendigo, Rupanyup, Kerang, Portland, Mildura, Hamilton 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 Elroy Schroeder

Arriving in Australia in 1971 Elroy Schroeder commenced in rural general practice at the Yarra Glen & Healesville Medical Practice.

He has worked continuously in the Yarra Valley apart from postings to Malaysia and Saudi Arabia in the 1970s and 80s.

Before holding the position of Eastern Ranges GP Association Treasurer Elroy served as its Chair.

Elroy is a keen member of Rotary and was the driving force behind the local Men's Health Meetings.

Following the death of his partner and friend, Dr John Lockwood, who was also a recipient of this award, Elroy took on a number of additional leadership roles.