



## Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

### Kerang Doctors Win Award

Kerang husband and wife doctor team Dianne and Lindsay Sherriff were honoured for their 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*.

Dianne and Lindsay were one of 10 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, Colac, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Foster, Bendigo, 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 Dianne Sherriff & Dr Lindsay Sherriff**

Lindsay and Dianne met and were married while studying medicine. They had a passion for rural practice and decided to adopt a team approach and arm themselves with complementary skills, which would mean they were able to cope with all situations. Lindsay trained in paediatrics, anaesthetics, obstetrics and gynaecology while Dianne trained in obstetrics, gynaecology and surgery.

As well as challenges of having a family, Lindsay and Dianne have also spent many nights working as a team in the operating theatre doing emergency caesarean sections.

Medical student mentoring programs are important to Lindsay and Dianne because they provide the opportunity for promotion of rural practice. Medical students are shown that rural practice provides variety, challenges, tremendous job satisfaction and the opportunity to work within a community.

Both are inspirational teachers and role models to the fourth year Monash University medical students who spend their general practice placement with Lindsay and Dianne. Kerang is one of the most popular placement sites with students.