



Media Release

Monday 26 May 2008

Victorian Rural Doctors Honoured for over 1,000 Years of Service

32 of Victoria's rural doctors, who have collectively contributed more than 1,000 years of service to rural health, were recognised on Friday night at the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) Annual Awards ceremony.

The *2008 RWAV Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards* acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our rural doctors and their spouses for the service and commitment they provide to rural and regional Victorian 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 on Friday night.

The rural doctors who received awards for their dedication to providing Victorians with access to health services herald from Ballarat, Delacombe, Alfredton, Shepparton, Wodonga, Moe, Mildura, Portland, Wangaratta, Foster, Colac, Apollo Bay, Healesville, Omeo, Rupunyp, Hamilton, Kerang, Mansfield and Orbost.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria's (RWAV) Chief Executive Claire Austin 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," Ms Austin 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."

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*.

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

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.