

Media Release

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Health Minister urges nominations for 2008 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards

Health Minister Daniel Andrews has called for nominations for the 2008 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards.

Initiated by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV), the annual awards acknowledge outstanding work provided by local doctors across the State.

"It should go without saying that general practitioners and other specialists are a crucial seam in the fabric of sustainable rural and regional communities," said Mr Andrews.

"These people contribute in so many exceptional and often unrecognised and unrewarded ways. The Rural Doctors' Awards are a chance for health service providers, local governments, community groups and members of the public to ensure that service is noted and celebrated."

Mr Andrews said the Victorian Government was committed to making provincial Victoria the best place to live, work and invest in – and that included ensuring strong, responsive and sustainable rural health services.

"The State Government has invested in new capital works, equipment and infrastructure upgrades across rural Victoria and supports recruitment and incentives to keep the rural health workforce vital and able to meet changing demand," Mr Andrews said.

"Every year the State Government also invests more than \$40 million to support a sustainable medical and allied health workforce across Victoria, with a particular emphasis on rural Victoria."

The 2008 Victorian Rural Doctor Awards will be announced at the RWAV Conference Dinner/Awards Ceremony on Friday evening 23 May 2008.

Nominations are open to any general practitioner and other specialists with 35 years or more service to rural communities, or who has made an outstanding contribution to rural communities or Aboriginal communities.

Nomination guidelines and forms are available at www.rwav.com.au. Nominations close Friday 14 March 2008.

The 2008 awards are sponsored by the 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.

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