



MEDIA RELEASE

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Do you know a doctor who stands out?

Victorians are being encouraged to say 'thanks' to the state's GPs by nominating standout doctors for a Victorian Rural Doctors' Award.

Communities can nominate a doctor who has made an outstanding contribution to rural and regional communities, or worked in rural and regional health for less than two years and demonstrated strong community engagement, or has contributed 35 years or more service to rural communities.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria chief executive Claire Austin explains the awards' importance.

"The annual Doctors' Awards acknowledge Victoria's regional and rural doctors and their families, for their dedication and commitment to our communities.

"Many of Victoria's doctors sustain our regions and so the awards give communities an opportunity to show their gratitude."

Nomination applications and guidelines can be found at www.rwav.com.au/awards and close on 30 July, 2010.

Previous winner Dr Wendy Connor from Beechworth reflects on receiving an award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities.

"To be nominated for the award was such an honour. When I arrived at the awards ceremony I felt privileged to be amongst a group of esteemed doctors. I was humbled to be in their presence", Dr Connor said.

General practitioners and other specialists who work in rural and regional Victoria are eligible for the annual awards.

An awards ceremony and dinner will honour this year's Victorian Rural Doctors' Award recipients and their families in Melbourne late October.

An independent panel of judges will assess the nominees.

Last year's Victorian Rural Doctors' Award recipients come from Ballarat, Sale, St Leonards, Moe, Elmore, Lorne, Ouyen, Traralgon, Mount Beauty, Beechworth, Wangaratta, Portland, Lakes Entrance, Benalla, Phillip Island, Traralgon and Camperdown.

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About RWAV: Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) is a not-for-profit organisation providing sustainable health workforce solutions for disadvantaged communities. Our services include health workforce attraction, recruitment, placement and support services in Victorian rural, regional and Aboriginal communities. RWAV also facilitates outreach medical and allied health services and provides health workforce research, policy and planning advice. www.rwav.com.au