

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black top and a red stethoscope, is smiling. She is wearing a lanyard with a badge that says "The Rural Co-operative Society of Western Australia". The background is a vibrant Aboriginal dot painting with green, white, and red patterns. A blue, glowing circular shape is visible on the left side of the background.

**RURAL
HEALTH
WEST**

MEMBERSHIPS

Working to ensure that **everyone, everywhere** can access quality healthcare.

distance is no obstacle

Rural Health West exists to ensure that rural and remote communities in Western Australia have access to quality healthcare.

We do this by attracting, recruiting and retaining medical and health professionals in rural locations. We provide ongoing support to ensure these vital professionals have access to relevant professional development, family and social support, locum services to take leave, clinical outreach programs to support their patients, and business and practice support to ensure the viability and sustainability of private practice.

We are known as the 'go to' people in the rural health sector in Western Australia as we are nimble, responsive, collaborative and inventive. We are proud to support medical and health professionals living and working in rural and remote Western Australia.

Why be a member?

We consider our members an essential element of our organisation. Our members act as a sounding board for new initiatives, provide support for our advocacy work on issues that impact health services and workforce in country Western Australia, and act as our eyes and ears on the ground in rural communities.

Initiatives such as the creation of the business and practice support service, the Eastern Wheatbelt Primary Care Project, the Forward to Fellowship program and the Strengthening Solo General Practice Program have been developed in response to the common and collective challenges facing rural health practitioners across the State.

Having a strong membership means we are well placed to ensure that **everyone, everywhere** can access quality healthcare.

We invite individuals who work or have an interest in the rural health and medical sector, and organisations which operate in or support rural Western Australia to become members of Rural Health West.

Membership categories

We offer three categories of membership to new members.

A fourth category, Life Membership, is offered to existing members selected by the Board to acknowledge their significant contributions to Rural Health West.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual Members must be registered medical practitioners, with substantial medical experience, or have a demonstrable interest in medicine, within rural and remote areas.

Individual Members are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings, and can be nominated as an Individual Member to the Board of Directors.

Fees: \$25.00 per annum

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate Members must demonstrate a desire to support or contribute to the achievement of Rural Health West's goal to ensure that rural and remote communities have access to quality healthcare.

This category may be appropriate for health professionals such as nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists and others working in rural healthcare. It may also be appropriate for university students in relevant fields who are interested in rural healthcare.

Associate Members can attend Annual General Meetings and General Meetings, but do not have voting rights and cannot be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors.

Fees: \$10.00 per annum



Rural Health West has encouraged and supported my chosen career path, from a new graduate working in rural WA to opening my own physiotherapy clinic in the Wheatbelt. My passion is rural physiotherapy and Rural Health West has helped shape this passion and make my dreams a reality.

Karen Rodgers-Smart – physiotherapist

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Organisational members must be currently operating in Western Australia and either:

- A representative of medical practitioners, nursing, midwifery or allied health professionals who work in rural and remote areas.
- An employer of medical practitioners, nursing, midwifery or allied health professionals who work in rural and remote areas.
- An educator of medical practitioners, nursing, midwifery or allied health professionals who work or may, in the future, work in rural and remote areas.
- A local government authority within rural and remote areas.
- Other entities the Board deems appropriate and whose appointment would assist the organisation in achieving its goals.

Organisational Members are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and General Meetings, and can nominate a representative to become an Organisational Member of the Board of Directors.

Fees: \$100.00 per annum

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Board occasionally considers the nomination of individuals for Life Membership to recognise outstanding service to Rural Health West.

If recommended by the Board (by ordinary resolution at a General Meeting), Life Members have the powers of an Individual Member, but without the requirement to pay a fee or subscription.

Membership entitlements

Membership	Governance entitlements			Requirements
	AGM and GM attendance	AGM and GM voting	Board appointment	Annual subscription fee
Organisational	✓	✓	✓	\$100.00
Individual	✓	✓	✓	\$25.00
Associate	✓	✗	✗	\$10.00
Life	✓	✓	✓	✗

RURAL HEALTH WEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Organisational, Individual and Life Members are eligible to be part of the Board of Directors. Rural Health West’s Board consists of up to eight persons including:

- Two Individual Members who reside and practise medicine in rural and remote areas, nominated and elected by Individual Members.
- Two appointed representatives of Organisational Members, consisting of a medical practitioner and a non-medical practitioner, elected by Individual and Organisational Members.
- Up to three persons (who may or may not be members) who have experience or recognised qualifications in any of the following areas: business; financial management; law; human resources; recruitment; marketing and any other relevant skills or areas of expertise which would complement the Board’s composition. These positions are appointed by members of the Board.
- One person (who may or may not be a member) elected by members of the Board to be Chair of the Board.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS

Membership application forms are available at www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/membership. A copy of the Rural Health West Constitution can be downloaded from the website.



Rural Health West has been a tremendous support for my work as a rural locum over the past eight years and as a practice principal when I ran my own practice.

Dr Michael Griffies – locum GP



Contact us

If you would like more information, please contact us on:

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Department of Health



Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service

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