

RURAL HEALTH WEST LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

In 2015 Rural Health West is acknowledging a rural general practitioner who has worked in country Western Australia for the last 37 years.

This GP obstetrician was one of the first rural GP registrars (then known as the Family Medicine Program), to work and train in general practice at the Lamington Medical Practice in Kalgoorlie. After completion of the Diploma of Obstetrics, this general practitioner moved to Kalgoorlie and started work as a solo GP and is now the longest serving GP obstetrician in the Eastern Goldfields region. He has provided on-call services to the Kalgoorlie hospital for the last 36 years and remains a Visiting Medical Practitioner to the hospital.

He spent over 20 years as a GP supervisor with both The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Western Australian General Practice Education and Training Limited and has trained many young GP registrars. He has also been an active member of many organisations focused on the attraction and retention of general practitioners to rural areas including: being a Board member and Chairman of the Goldfields Esperance GP Network and Eastern Goldfields Medical Association; Director of the Western Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine and continuing as the initial Deputy Chair and Secretary when the organisation transitioned to Rural Health West; long-term secretary of the Rural Doctors Association of Western Australia; and was the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee for Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital.

In addition to being a rural general practitioner, he has also been an extremely active member of the Kalgoorlie community. He spent six years as a Councillor of the Town of Kalgoorlie and an additional three years as a Councillor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, with his last year being Deputy Mayor.

He was instrumental in the establishment of the first palliative care service in the town and was the initial Chairman of the Steering Committee established to develop a Senior

Citizen Centre. He was the Kalgoorlie-Boulder representative for the Goldfields Aged Welfare Association and as a GP provided medical services to the pensioner lodge this organisation ran. The accommodation standards available were quite poor and this GP was active in assisting to obtain financial assistance from the Bunning's Organisation to enable Anglican Homes to build a new nursing home.

He is also proud to have been involved in the establishment of St Barbara's Square in the CBD of Kalgoorlie, and more recently, the gilding of the dome on the Post Office tower, which is now a tourist attraction, highlighting Kalgoorlie-Boulder as the Gold Capital of Australia.

He has been a long-time active member of the Hannan's Rotary Club, serving as a member of the committee and has held the position of President. He was also awarded the Paul Harris Fellow for Services to Rotary and the community.

During his time in Kalgoorlie, he has also managed to support the Kalgoorlie City Football Club, being the club doctor since 1980 and has developed a reputation as a formidable tennis player, being the Club Singles Champion six times, Men's Double Champion 15 times, and Mixed Doubles Champion six times. He has only once failed to make a tennis semi-final in 30 years of competition!

For the significant contribution this doctor has made to rural and remote medicine through membership of rural medical organisations, service as a rural general practitioner and active member of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Rural Health West presents Dr Mal Hodsdon with Life Membership.