



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL HEALTH **EXCELLENCE** AWARDS

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026
CROWN PERTH | GRAND BALLROOM

NOMINATION **GUIDE**



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

RURAL
HEALTH
WEST

INTRODUCTION

The WA Rural Health Excellence Awards recognise and celebrate dedication, innovation and impact of individuals, teams and organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of people in rural, regional and remote Western Australia. From frontline clinicians to community-led initiatives, these awards shine a light on those who go above and beyond to make a difference in their communities.

Presented by Rural Health West in partnership with WA Country Health Service, the Awards are a meaningful opportunity to showcase the stories and achievements shaping rural health care in our state.

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year
- Allied Health Professional of the Year
- Clinical Leader of the Year
- Community Health Professional of the Year
- GP of the Year
- Health Team of the Year
- Nurse or Midwife of the Year
- Specialist (non GP) of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- WA Country Health Service - Intern of the Year
- WA Country Health Service - Resident Medical Officer of the Year

WHY NOMINATE?

By nominating someone, you're not only honouring their contributions, but you're also helping to:

- Acknowledge extraordinary efforts in challenging and diverse environments.
- Inspire others through powerful examples of dedication and innovation.
- Share success stories that highlight the richness and resilience of rural health care.
- Give individuals and teams the recognition they truly deserve.
- Promote pride and visibility across the rural health sector.

Anyone can nominate! Health professionals, colleagues, community members, patients and clients are all encouraged to get involved.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- ▶ Nominations open: **1 July 2025**
- ▶ Nominations close: **2 September 2025**

To nominate, follow these steps:

- 1 Review the Award Categories and Criteria in this document.
- 2 Select the most appropriate category for your nominee.
- 3 Ensure you receive an endorsement to support your nomination.
- 4 Review the tips and tricks on submitting a successful nomination.
- 5 Submit your nomination via the online submission portal.
- 6 Your nomination (maximum 800 words) should clearly address the selection criteria and highlight the nominee.

Nominations are anonymous, and you will be contacted should we require further information.

REVIEW PROCESS

The review process is designed to ensure fairness, transparency and recognition of merit. It involves three rounds of review.

- **Initial Review:** Awards organisers will read the nomination. If the nomination is lacking information or could be improved and time permits, it will be returned to the nominator with feedback. If changes have not been made by the closing date, the nomination will either be accepted or declined.
- **Round One:** Nominations are divided between six review panels. Each panel (3 members) reviews and scores nominations based on the published selection criteria.
- **Round Two:** The top five scoring nominations in each category are reviewed again. Round Two reviewers (3 members) will then recommend three finalists and one winner from the finalists per category.
- **Round Three:** Finalists and winners are reviewed by a final review panel (2 members). They may endorse the recommendations or re-review the top five to make alternate selections.

All reviewers are health professionals, rural health stakeholders or industry representatives, invited to participate in the review process by the event organisers. Finalists will be announced November 2025. Winners will be revealed at the Awards Gala Ceremony on **Saturday 14 March 2026**.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

To ensure the integrity of the review process:

- All members of the review process are required to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
- If a reviewer has a personal or professional relationship with a nominee, they will recuse themselves from reviewing that particular nomination.
- If a reviewer recuses themselves from a nomination, that nomination will be reviewed by the Conflict-of-Interest Reviewer to ensure it still receives the full review process.

BENEFITS TO FINALISTS

Benefits to Solo Finalists

Being selected as a finalist or winner is a prestigious honour with several benefits:

- State-wide recognition through digital, print and media coverage.
- Professional profiling on the Awards website and social media.
- Complimentary ticket to the awards ceremony for the finalist and a guest.
- Complimentary travel to the awards ceremony for the finalist and a guest.
- Complimentary accommodation, including breakfast for two the night of the awards ceremony for the finalist and a guest.
- A commemorative trophy and certificate for winners.
- A commemorative paperweight and certificate for finalists.



Benefits to Team Finalists

- State-wide recognition through digital, print and media coverage.
- Professional profiling on the Awards website and social media.
- Team receives five complimentary tickets to the awards ceremony.
- Team receives complimentary travel to the awards ceremony for up to five team members.
- Team receives complimentary accommodation, including breakfast for the night of the awards ceremony for up to five team members.
- A commemorative trophy and certificate for winners.
- A commemorative paperweight and certificate for finalists.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS

Please review the below eligibility for all nominations, noting some categories also have their own specific eligibility.

- At the time of the nomination, all nominees must be delivering health services to rural and remote Western Australian communities, defined as MMM2-7 locations.
- Unless otherwise stated, at the time of the nomination, nominees must have delivered services in rural WA location for more than two years.
- Nominations must be submitted by the closing date (**2 September 2025**) via the official **online portal**.
- Nominations can be submitted by supervisors, peers and organisations. We do not accept self-nominations outside of the Health Team of the Year Award.
- Community members can submit a nomination for the Community Health Professional of the Year Award
- All nominations must be endorsed by a colleague, supervisor or professional peer of the nominee.

CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year Award

This award recognises an Aboriginal health professional who delivers culturally safe, responsive, and compassionate care in rural WA. They demonstrate a deep personal and professional commitment to Aboriginal health and actively work to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

Selection Criteria

- Outline the nominee's career in rural health, including qualifications and service history in Aboriginal health.
- Describe how the nominee provides person-centred care by collaborating with patients, families, communities and/or healthcare teams.
- Provide specific examples of their positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the community.

Additional Category Specific Eligibility

- Must identify as Aboriginal

Allied Health Professional of the Year

This award recognises an allied health professional who has gone above and beyond in their commitment to the health and wellbeing of rural communities. They demonstrate excellence in service delivery and active contribution to rural health.

Selection Criteria

- Provide a summary of the nominee's career in rural health, including qualifications and duration.
- Describe the outstanding qualities and achievements that make this professional exceptional.
- Share examples of the nominee's contributions and their impact on the community's wellbeing.



Clinical Leader of the Year

This award recognises a health professional whose leadership has driven improvements in patient care, access, or safety in rural WA. They inspire excellence, foster collaboration, and serve as a role model in rural healthcare.

Selection Criteria

- Outline the nominee's career and experience in rural practice.
- Provide examples of leadership in areas such as patient safety, satisfaction or access to care.
- Describe how their leadership has positively influenced peers and improved community health.



Community Health Professional of the Year

This award recognises a health professional who has made a meaningful difference to an individual or community through care and compassion. This award provides an opportunity for patients or support persons to share personal stories.

Selection Criteria

- Share a story that demonstrates how the nominee provided outstanding care and made a difference in the community.



General Practitioner (GP) of the Year

This award recognises a general practitioner or rural generalist who has shown exceptional commitment to rural healthcare. The nominee consistently delivers high-quality clinical care and engages deeply with their community.

Selection Criteria

- Summarise the nominee's rural career and qualifications.
- Detail how they have maintained excellence in service, including innovative service delivery models or additional clinical or procedural skills.
- Provide community impact examples that demonstrate improved health outcomes.



Health Team of the Year

This award recognises a health team or service that has delivered significant improvements to rural health outcomes through collaboration, innovation, and excellence in care.

Selection Criteria

- Describe the team's work, its benefits to the rural community and how it was delivered.
- Highlight coordination with other agencies or services.
- Explain how the initiative created lasting, positive change.

Additional Category Specific Eligibility

- Can be self-nominated
- Open to teams
- Can be metro based but must be delivering outreach services in MMM 2 – 7 locations.



Nurse or Midwife of the Year

This award recognises a nurse or midwife who has consistently delivered high-quality care, exceeded role expectations, and contributed meaningfully to their rural community.

Selection Criteria

- Summarise the nominee's rural nursing or midwifery career.
- Provide examples of professional excellence and patient outcomes.
- Describe the nominee's contributions to their community.



Specialist (Non-GP) of the Year

This award recognises a medical specialist who provides exceptional care and leadership in rural WA either as a resident or visiting specialist.

Selection Criteria

- Outline the nominee's rural career and experience.
- Describe their commitment to continuity of care and mentorship.
- Provide examples of how they contribute to workforce development and teamwork.



Young Professional of the Year

This award celebrates an emerging health professional who shows exceptional promise, leadership, and dedication to rural health.

Selection Criteria

- Outline the nominee's early career and rural experience.
- Provide examples of impact on health service quality or safety.
- Show how the nominee engages in community and/or volunteer networks.

Additional Category Specific Eligibility

- At the time of nomination, must have been practising for no more than five years in a rural location.

TIPS FOR A STRONG NOMINATION

• Be clear and specific

Focus on what sets your nominee apart – avoid general statements like “they are amazing” or “everyone loves them”, instead give examples of what they’ve done that shows why they are outstanding.

• Address the criteria directly

Each award category has specific criteria. Use these as a guide and structure your nomination to respond to them. The use of headings, or highlighting which criteria point you are answering is very helpful here.

• Tell a Story

Describe real-life examples that show the nominee's dedication, innovation or care. Bring their work to life by explaining what they did, how they did it and why it mattered. Include evidence and statistics if they are available.

• Avoid jargon

Remember, reviewers may come from a variety of backgrounds. Write any abbreviations out in full before using the shorthand eg Rural Health West (RHW)

• Keep within the word count

The limit is 800 words.

NOMINATION CHECKLIST

☐

Selected the appropriate Award category for your nominee.

☐

Completed the nomination (maximum 800 words) addressing the selection criteria.

☐

Ensured the nomination contains accurate and truthful information.

☐

Provided a clear endorsement from a colleague, supervisor or professional peer.

☐

Submitted via the official **online portal** before the closing date (**2 September 2025**).

☐

Ensured contact details are correct for the nominator, nominee and endorsement.

SUPPORT WITH NOMINATIONS

We are committed to making the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards accessible to all.

If you need assistance with the nomination process for whatever reason, we're here to help!

We can assist with:

- Clarifying the process
- Formatting support
- Alternative submission methods (where necessary)
- Review and provide feedback to nominations before submission

CONTACT US

E awards@ruralhealthwest.com.au

T 08 6389 4500

FAQs

Can I nominate myself?

No – please have a manager, colleague or patient nominate you.

Can I nominate someone without them knowing?

Certainly! However, if they do become a finalist, we may reach out to include you in the video biography presented at the ceremony.

Who can nominate?

Health workers, colleagues, patients, clients or community members

Can I nominate someone in more than one category?

Certainly! Please do not copy and paste the nomination, as each category has it’s own selection criteria.

Can I submit a video nomination?

At this stage we are only accepting written submissions. If you need support with your nomination, please contact us.

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
1 July 2025	Nominations open
2 September 2025	Nominations close
November 2025	Finalists announced
14 March 2026	Awards Gala Ceremony



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting a nomination for the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards 2026, nominators agree to the following terms and conditions:

- Rural Health West reserves the right to extend or amend nomination deadlines where appropriate and necessary.
- Nominations must be factually accurate and based on truthful representation of the nominee’s work and achievements.
- All nominations must be endorsed by a colleague, supervisor or professional associate of the nominee. The endorser may be contacted to verify details or clarify content within the nomination.
- Nominations which are deemed by the Awards organisers or review panel to contain insufficient information or supporting evidence may not be considered.
- Rural Health West reserves the right to use all or part of any nomination material, including written content, images, and testimonials for the purpose of promoting the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards, including through print, online, and social media platforms.

- The review panel reserves the right to reallocate nominations to a different award category if deemed more appropriate.
- The review process is confidential. All decisions made by the review panel are final, and no further correspondence or appeal will be entered into regarding outcomes.
- Rural Health West takes no responsibility for incomplete or late submissions. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure all materials are submitted before the published deadline.
- All personal information collected will be handled in accordance with the Rural Health West Privacy Policy and used only for the administration and promotion of the Awards.



SAMPLE NOMINATION

Below is an example nomination for a fictional nominee for the Rural Nurse or Midwife of the Year category.

Word count: ~750

1 Summarise the nominee's rural nursing or midwifery career

Jane Porter has served as the sole community nurse in the remote town of Woorlup for the past eight years. In that time, she has built a trusted health hub from the ground up, expanding services far beyond what would usually be expected of a nurse in a town of 400 people.

Jane began her career with a strong interest in rural health, completing postgraduate studies in remote area nursing. She chose Woorlup as a long-term placement and has become an embedded and essential member of the community.

2 Provide examples of professional excellence and patient outcomes

Jane consistently delivers care that goes far beyond expectation. In 2025, she launched a mobile wound care service after identifying transport barriers for elderly patients. Since then, hospital admissions for wound-related infections have dropped by 60%.

During the 2024 floods, Jane coordinated Woorlup's emergency health response—organising supplies, checking on isolated residents, and ensuring culturally appropriate support in partnership with local Aboriginal elders. Her leadership helped prevent escalation of medical issues during a time of crisis.

She also pioneered a telehealth pilot connecting residents with allied health professionals, which has now been expanded regionally due to its success. Her work with the local school on youth mental health sessions has further strengthened community resilience.

Jane works tirelessly, often outside regular hours, and always with humility and professionalism.

3 Describe the nominee's contributions to their community

Jane's impact reaches well beyond clinical care. She is mentoring two final-year nursing students, helping grow the next generation of rural health professionals. She also leads Woorlup's Health and Wellbeing Committee, advocating for practical solutions like subsidised transport and public defibrillators.

She is deeply woven into the community—known not just as a nurse, but as a trusted advocate and mentor. Her work reflects a holistic, people-first approach to rural care.

Jane Porter embodies the values of rural nursing: dedication, innovation, and community connection. Her leadership, compassion, and practical impact make her an exceptional candidate for Rural Nurse of the Year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For support with your nomination or further information contact:

Rural Health West Events Team

www.waruralhealthexcellenceawards.com.au

awards@ruralhealthwest.com.au

08 6389 4500

SAVE THE DATE – WA RURAL HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY AND GALA DINNER

Join us as we celebrate the outstanding contributions of health professionals, teams and organisations dedicated to rural and remote communities across Western Australia.

Awards Ceremony

Date Saturday 14 March 2026

Venue Crown Perth – Crown Ballroom

Time 6.30pm to midnight

Attire Cocktail/evening wear

All finalists will be invited to attend the Awards Gala with winners announced on the night. More details, including ticketing and program information will be available closer to the event at: www.waruralhealthexcellenceawards.com.au

Let's come together to honour those who go above and beyond for rural health in WA.

STEP BY STEP NOMINATION SUBMISSION – HOW TO USE THE PORTAL

- 1 Visit the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards website and navigate to the **Nominate Now** tab. Click **Nominations**.



- 2 Click **nominate now**
- 3 Click the **create new account** button.

- 4 Create your account. These details will be used to login to your account to create, view and make edits to your nomination.

- 5 Click into **Nominator Information** and then **Create contact**.

Welcome

Home Nominator Information Sign out

Nominator Details

Below is the current information associated with your primary contact (nominator). To update this information click the Edit Contact Details button towards the bottom of the screen.

Create contact

- 6 Enter your primary contact details. These will be used for all communications regarding your nomination including if your nomination needs edits, and notification of your accepted nomination. Click **Submit**.

Contact Details

Title *

First Name *

Last Name *

Organisation *

Position *

Email Address *

Verify Email Address *

Mobile *

Primary Address

Address *

City/Suburb *

State *

Postcode *

- 7 Once you have submitted your details, new tabs will become available. Click the **Nomination** tab to begin the process of writing your nomination.

Welcome Miss Taylor Markey

Home Nominator Information Nomination Edit Nomination Sign out

Nomination Portal

This page will take you through the process of submitting your nomination. Each of the tabs on the left hand side of the page will bring up a step in the nomination process that needs to be completed. At any time in the process you can click the **Save As Draft** button to save your incomplete nomination and return to it at a later time. The Review section will give you an overview of the sections that are still required to be completed before you can submit your nomination. Once all required sections have been completed, you can submit your nomination in the Submit section of this page.

Nominee and Award Category

Nominee Draft

Name of the person you are nominating (title, first name, last name)

Nominee

Word Count 0

Award Category

Choose your award category from the drop down list below. Nominations must include a statement of 800 words (maximum) addressing the **selection criteria** for the award category.

Award category

Save As Draft Continue

- 8 Enter the name of the person you are nominating for an award. Then select the award category. Click **Continue** to proceed to the next step.

Please note: you can click **Save as Draft** at any point if you wish to exit and complete your nomination at a later date.

Nominee and Award Category

Nominee

Name of the person you are nominating (title, first name, last name)

Nominee

Word Count 2

Award Category

Choose your award category from the drop down list below. Nominations must include a statement of 800 words (maximum) addressing the **selection criteria** for the award category.

Award category

Save As Draft Continue

Draft

- 9 Begin your nomination process by selecting your relationship to the nominee. Click **Continue**.

You will see on the left-hand side, the progression you are making and how many stages are left before your nomination is complete.

Please note: please check the accepted relationship nominee in the nomination category prior to submitting. We only accept self nominations for Health Team of the Year Award. We also only accept patient/client nominations for the Community Health Professional of the Year Award.

Nominee and Award Category

Nominee Relationship

Relationship to Nominee

Please select your relationship to the nominee

Relationship

Save As Draft Continue

Draft

- 10 This is where you will write your nomination statement within the white box. It is important you refer to the selection criteria for the award category you have selected. Review the **FAQs** page under the **Nominate Now** tab on the event website for tips and tricks for creating a strong nomination.

✔ Nominee and Award Category

✔ Nominee Relationship

Selection Criteria

Endorsement & Nominee Details

Review

Submit

Selection Criteria

A selection panel of representatives from relevant rural organisations and committees choose finalists and select the winner, based on the selection criteria specific to the nominated category.

Please refer to the [Awards Categories & Criteria document](#) when completing your nomination below.

Special Character Keyboard

Write your nomination statement here.

Word Limit 800

Word Count 5

Save As Draft

Continue

13

- 11 Enter the contact details of one (1) person that is not yourself, who has endorsed this nomination. Then enter the contact details of the person you are nominating for the award. **Do not re-enter your contact details on either of these sections.**

Please note: these contact details will be used to notify the nominee. We will NOT let them know who has nominated them.

✓ Nominee and Award Category	<h3>Endorsement & Nominee Details</h3> <p>All nominations must be endorsed by a second person.</p> <p>This person can be the nominee's Regional Medical Director, Line Manager, Supervisor, Shire President or Practice Principal. The selection panel may contact this person for a referee check.</p> <p>NOTE: Community Health Professional of the Year can be endorsed by a friend, family member or colleague.</p> <h4>Endorsement</h4> <p>Endorsed By (Title, First Name & Last Name) *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Organisation & Position *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Email Address *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Contact Number *</p> <input type="text"/> <h4>Nominee Details</h4> <p>Details about the person you are nominating - Please do not use your email address and contact details.</p> <p>Nominee Name (Title, First Name & Last Name) *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Nominee Employer/Practice (Where do they work?) *</p> <input type="text"/>	Draft
✓ Nominee Relationship		
✓ Selection Criteria		
Endorsement & Nominee Details		
Review		
Submit		

- 12 Here you can review your nomination. If you wish to make changes you can click into the relevant section on the left-hand side.

If all sections have been completed it will display a green **Ready to submit** bar. If there are any items missing, they will be listed for you to go back and complete.

✓ Nominee and Award Category	<h3>Review Submission</h3> <p>Below is a summary of your completed nomination. Any sections that are still required to be completed for submission are noted in red.</p> <h4>Mrs Excellence</h4> <p>Write your nomination statement here.</p> <div>Ready to submit</div> <div>Save As Draft Continue</div>	Draft
✓ Nominee Relationship		
✓ Selection Criteria		
✓ Endorsement & Nominee Details		
Review		
Submit		

13 Read the Terms and Conditions, before checking the **I agree** box. Then click **Submit**.

Please note: once submitted you will not be able to make any changes. If you need to make changes, please reach out to our team at awards@ruralhealthwest.com.au.

✓ Nominee and Award Category	Nomination Submission If all required nomination submission fields have been completed you will have the option to submit your nomination at the bottom of the page. If there are any remaining fields or sections to complete you will only have the option to save your submission as a draft until they are completed. You must agree to the Terms and Conditions below before you can proceed.	Draft
✓ Nominee Relationship		
✓ Selection Criteria		
✓ Endorsement & Nominee Details		
Review		
Submit	<div>Terms and Conditions for Nominations<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A nominee can be entered into more than one category using separate nominations.2. Nominees must be currently employed in WA.3. If a nominee has been a finalist in a particular category in previous years they can be re-nominated in that category the following year.4. If a nominee has been a winner in previous years, they can not be considered in that category again.5. Each nomination must be endorsed by a second person (Regional Medical Director, Line Manager, Supervisor, Shire President or Practice Principal.)6. Nominees must not be subject to a professional practice notification, restriction/limitation to practice, under investigation, disciplinary process or undergoing performance management. If a nominee is subsequently found to be subject to any of these conditions their nomination will be withdrawn.7. Late applications will not be considered.8. A confirmation email will be sent to the nominator once the submission is received.9. A confirmation email will be sent to the nominee once the nomination has been accepted.10. The Judging Panel may change the category for which the individual is nominated.11. The Judging Panel's decision is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.12. Feedback to the nominees will not be provided.13. Three finalists from each award category will be invited to attend the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday 22 March 2025, with the winners being announced on the night.14. Award winner/finalists may be invited to speak with the media and/or other organisations about their award. Rural Health West and WA Country Health Service reserves the right to use any media/photos/articles for promotion purposes or publications.15. Privacy - Personal information about nominees and nominators provided will only be used for the purposes of assessing and judging of the nomination in the WA Rural Health Excellence Awards.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I agree to the above Terms and Conditions</div> <div>Save As Draft Submit</div>	

Congratulations your nomination has been submitted!

Congratulations, your nomination has been submitted and been received by our team.

Once your nomination has been received it will undergo an initial review by our team. We will read the nomination. If the nomination is lacking information or could be improved and time permits, it will be returned to the nominator with feedback. If changes have not been made by the closing date, the nomination will either be accepted or declined.

After the initial review, if no edits need to be made, the nomination will be accepted. You will be notified that your nomination has been accepted and the nominee will be notified they have been nominated.

To submit a new nomination, click back to the **Nomination** tab and repeat the process. The same person can be nominated for multiple categories.

Your nomination Requires Edits

If you are notified your nomination requires edits, we ask you to please log back into the **portal** and complete the edits requested.

You can view and edit your submitted nomination under the **Edit Nomination** tab.

The status will be changed to **Edits Required**, click **Edit** and proceed to the area which requires the edits.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters across Western Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise their enduring connection to Country, culture and community.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions of Aboriginal peoples to health and wellbeing in rural, regional and remote communities and we honour their leadership, strength and resilience in health care.

