



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE INC.

Media Release

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Top Performers in Rural Health Care Honoured

The National Rural Health Conference in Albury today honours health professionals and workers from around Australia with various awards presented for achievement, experience and promise.

Awards

The *Louis Ariotti Award* honours a legendary bush practitioner still active in southern Queensland, and recognises innovation and excellence in rural health. The award is made to one or more individuals who make an outstanding contribution to rural and remote health and is funded by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation .

Winners:

A Joint team from Wagga Wagga-NSW: Peter Macneil- retired surgeon and activist; Dr Geraldine Duncan, Senior lecturer at UniNSW Rural Medical School and GP; and Nancye Piercy; CEO of Riverina Division of General Practice.

The inaugural *National Institute of Clinical Studies Rural Paper Award: evidence into practice*. The award encourages the adoption of best practice evidence into practice.

Winner:

Improving perinatal health care: multidisciplinary teams in a rural setting, by Jo Lawrence, Fran Peterie, Simon Milligan, Greater Southern Area Health Service, NSW

The inaugural *biennial Rural Registrar Award*. General Practice Education and Training Ltd award to a registrar who demonstrates a commitment to rural practice during their training by seeking out experiences to equip them for a future career in a remote or rural area.

Winner:

Dr Rafi Ahmed, from Gunnedah, NSW. Rafi trained at the Bangladesh Medical College. He and his family have bought a home in Gunnedah.

The *Infront Outback Research Grant for Rural and Remote Health* is also sponsored by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.

Winner:

Australian Health Care Reform Alliance in conjunction with the Health Issues Centre.

The *Des Murray Scholarships*. Des Murray was the senior officer in rural health for the Commonwealth in the early days and later worked for the Alliance. The scholarships are for young people coming from a remote area, and this year three scholarships have been awarded.

Winners:

1. Robyn McKinnon ,community worker with Northern Tasmania Development.
2. Rue Kwedza works for the Mt Isa Community Health Service covering an area from Dajarra to the south, to Karumba in the north.
3. Lani Newton, youth worker with the Eastern Eyre Health and Aged Care Service in South Australia, serving the towns, schools and children of Cleve, Cowell and Kimba – a combined population of 4,475 in 11,500 sq. kms.

Info: <http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/program/docs/program.htm>

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