



Awards Galore

Our members at St John of God Health Care excelled on AMA (WA)'s big night

Chief Medical Officer Dr Simon Towler and philanthropist Elizabeth Perron were among the honourees at the Australian Medical Association (WA) Awards. The awards were presented at MEDBALL on 1 November, at the Ritz-Carlton Perth, in front of more than 220 guests – including Health and Mental Health Hon Minister Meredith Hammat MLA, Opposition Leader Basil Zempilas MLA, and Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Shirley Bowen.

Two new categories were added for this year's awards. St John of God Health Care (SJOG) won the inaugural Health Service Provider of the Year Award, while Pramana Medical Centre was the recipient of the inaugural Practice of the Year Award.

It was a highly successful night for SJOG, with two of its staff also receiving awards. Dr Jemma Hogan was named the Junior Doctor of the Year (Dr Camille Michener Legacy Award), while Dr Maria Foundas was recognised with the DHASWA Champion of the Year Award (the Jonathan Morling Legacy Award).

SJOG Chief Medical Officer Dr David McCoubrie said receiving the Health Service Provider (HSP) of the Year award was recognition of its People First culture and focus on valuing the experience of doctors in training (DiTs). The award recognises the HSP with the highest overall score for delivering quality training, support and workplace conditions in the 2025 AMA (WA) Hospital Health Check (HHC) survey. Almost 1,500 junior doctors participated this year – a new record.

“Being recognised as the Health Service Provider of the Year is particularly meaningful as it reflects the contributions and experience of our junior doctors, who have overwhelmingly recommended us as a great place to work,” Dr McCoubrie, a former AMA (WA) Vice President, said.

“We offer junior doctors outstanding opportunities to learn and be mentored in teams, while providing holistic, person-centered care at a leading healthcare organisation. SJOG offers both public and private services, delivering diverse clinical and research opportunities across our hospitals. Underpinning this is our highly supportive and values-driven culture,” he said.

Dr McCoubrie congratulated Dr Jemma Hogan, SJOG General Manager Medical Workforce and Education, who recently spearheaded a tutorial group for colleagues undertaking medical leadership studies at the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA). Additionally, she worked with RACMA to reform its training leave policies to benefit those colleagues requiring parental leave or other training leave. Dr Hogan also facilitates leadership and governance education for junior doctors at SJOG Midland Hospital.

She was the AMA (WA) DiT Committee Co-Chair from 2020 to 2022, and also served on WA’s AMA Federal Council as DiT State Representative.

“After preparing for my RACMA fellowship exams, I wanted to give back to the medical community by creating a Western Australian-based tutorial group, which has enabled other trainees to connect and prepare with colleagues, gaining insights from their varied experiences; as otherwise their preparation would have been a far more solitary and isolating process.

“Separately, SJOG has been instrumental in supporting my unique, dual-training pathway in paediatrics and medical management; and for that I feel very grateful. I’ve seen firsthand the organisation’s values being lived by caregivers, and I’ve had amazing career opportunities during my time here,” Dr Hogan said.

Dr McCoubrie also congratulated Dr Maria Foundas, SJOG’s Consultant for Aged Care & Rehabilitation and a Senior Geriatrician at SJOG Midland Hospital, who is highly regarded by her colleagues for her leadership, compassion and commitment to junior doctor wellbeing. Dr Foundas also manages the Intern Wellbeing Program at SJOG Midland Hospital, focused on sharing concerns and problem-solving.

“I welcome the opportunity to shine a light on the important topic of junior doctor wellbeing. Being a doctor is an immense privilege, but it often comes with great responsibilities and challenges. When we build trusting relationships and openly share our experiences, we are enabled to support each other in a truly meaningful way.

“SJOG constantly strives to build and sustain a happy and healthy junior doctor workforce through the introduction of programs such as this one, facilitating conversations around the value of caring for each other, and lending practical organisational support,” said Dr Foundas.

AMA (WA) President Dr Kyle Hoath said the AMA (WA) Awards continue to evolve; and with two new awards they better reflect the WA healthcare landscape.

“The Health Service Provider of the Year underlines just how important our HHC has become as a snapshot of the state of the hospital system, and SJOG is a worthy winner with some outstanding results in the HHC.”

Dr Hoath said.

“Pramana Medical Centre has gained a fantastic reputation in a short time, and it is a privilege to be able to honour their work in challenging areas of health. It was exciting to give the President’s Award to Elizabeth Perron AM. Under her stewardship, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation continues the legacy of her late father, affecting the health outcomes of Western Australians for generations to come.”

The AMA (WA) Awards & Winners

HIPPOCRATES AWARD

• *Dr Simon Towler*

Dr Simon Towler has been the Chief Medical Officer since 2022 and previously performed the same role from 2006–2012. The AMA (WA) President in 2000, Simon worked for several decades as an intensivist at Royal Perth Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH).

His appointments include Medical Co-Director at FSH; Clinical Lead, South Metropolitan Health Services Futures Program; State Medical Director of Donate Life WA; Executive Director of Health Policy and Clinical Reform Division, Department of Health; Adjunct Professor at Edith Cowan University and Murdoch University; member of Curtin Medical School Advisory Board; and member of the Board of Palliative Care WA.

He was involved in developing the Clinical Senate and the commissioning of FSH, and oversaw the formation of the WA Health Networks, including the Cancer and Palliative Care Network.

Simon has made a significant contribution to voluntary assisted dying (VAD) as a lawful end-of-life choice for eligible Western Australians. He was a member of the VAD Ministerial Expert Panel that developed recommendations on specific elements for inclusion in the then proposed legislation for VAD. Following the commencement of the legislation in July 2021, Simon was part of the first group of VAD practitioners and then took on the role of VAD clinical lead in the South Metropolitan Health Service.

As Chief Medical Officer, he has provided tireless support to the Medical Workforce Unit, with increased Junior Medical Officer recruitment for the Health Service Providers and advocacy for greater focus on teaching and training to address the vocational training bottleneck, to improve career opportunities for doctors.

As a strong advocate of the importance of workforce wellbeing, he has ensured ongoing funding of Doctors for Doctors (Drs4Drs).

PRESIDENT'S AWARD • *Elizabeth Perron AM*

The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, established in 1978, was one of the first of its kind in WA, and has since made substantial donations to hundreds of causes and organisations – especially those focused on the health and wellbeing of children.

Mr Perron's commitment to philanthropy began with his involvement in the Rotary movement, where he frequently bolstered his local club's fundraising with substantial personal donations. A childhood of hardship inspired his enduring belief that those who do well in life should help those in need.

His daughter Elizabeth Perron AM, an Executive Director of Perron Group Limited, was appointed to the Board of the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation in 2014. Since Stan Perron's passing in October 2018, the Foundation has significantly increased its philanthropic activity, with gifts divided into two major categories: Community Grants and Health Research Grants. Ms Perron is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Foundation and has served as its Executive Chair since December 2018.

Ms Perron has extensive experience in the commercial property industry, encompassing roles at Hooker Corporate, Knight Frank and Jones Lang LaSalle.

MEDICAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

• *Caitlin McEwen*

A qualified and registered radiation therapist, Caitlin McEwen is a final-year medical student at the University of Western Australia (UWA) who has made outstanding contributions in advocacy, education, research, and rural health equity. Her work spans from grassroots community engagement in regional WA to international research presentations, reflecting a commitment to healthcare and the medical profession that extends well beyond the expectations of a student.

Caitlin is the founder and president of Pilbara Health Futures, a student-led not-for-profit initiative dedicated to addressing healthcare workforce shortages in rural and remote areas. Through this platform, she actively supports and mentors high-school students, particularly in the Pilbara, to explore and pursue careers in health.

Her passion for mentoring and professional development extends to her role as a Learning Coach in UWA's Learning Skills and Development Program. In this capacity, she supports four first-year medical students, guiding them on academic skills, clinical preparedness and personal wellbeing.

Within the medical student community, Caitlin has demonstrated sustained and effective leadership. She is currently Treasurer of the UWA Surgical Society, where she manages financial operations and contributes to strategic planning. Previously, she served as the Women in Surgery Chair for the Society, a position through which she championed inclusivity and gender equity in surgical careers.

PRACTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

• *Pramana Medical Centre*

Pramana Medical Group, established in 2021, has redefined what patient-centred primary care looks like in Australia, serving more than 7,000 active patients, 65% of whom are First Nations people; the remaining being culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, individuals experiencing homelessness, and people living with disability. Pramana has made clinical excellence inseparable from equity by creating a centre that delivers health without barriers.

Their trauma-informed, culturally safe and holistic model addresses social determinants of health in parallel with clinical care. Weekly home-visit clinics staffed by a GP,

nurse and social worker bring healthcare directly to families who might otherwise remain disengaged. By meeting people where they are, Pramana helps rebuild trust with families who may have been disconnected from care for years or decades.

Pramana's clinical team is uniquely interdisciplinary, resembling more of a hospital than a GP clinic. The workforce includes GPs, nurse practitioners, primary care nurses, a psychiatrist specialising in addiction, a clinical pharmacist, diabetes educator, podiatrist, optometrist, chiropractor, sleep specialist, dietitian, exercise physiologist, cardiologist, cardiac sonographer, respiratory nurse, and domestic violence social worker.

Together, they deliver evidence-based wraparound care, while innovative partnerships with tertiary services bring outpatient appointments into the clinic and integrate joint telehealth with GPs to enhance trust and engagement for marginalised communities. Pramana ensures clinical excellence is not a privilege but a right, delivered in ways that are safe, accessible and culturally sensitive.

In August, Pramana's Dr Rajeshwary (Raji) Krishnan received the AMA's President's Award, recognising her dedication to improving health outcomes for multiple generations of First Nations families. Dr Krishnan was also named the 2025 RACGP GP of the Year.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

• *Dr Daniel Hunt*

Dr Daniel Hunt, a Jaru and Indjibarndi man, is both a GP and dentist.

He's an exceptional doctor, a tireless advocate for health equity, and an influential leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. He has dedicated his career to improving access to culturally safe healthcare, influencing health policy at state and national levels, and mentoring the next generation of clinicians. As a registered RACGP Supervisor, he has invested significant time in mentoring GP registrars, junior doctors, and other healthcare professionals.

His focus on cultural safety, holistic care and community engagement ensures those he trains carry forward the same values and standards.

Dr Hunt has held significant leadership roles, including Acting CEO and Deputy Medical Director of Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services. He is the Deputy Chair of the Blood Borne Viruses and Sexual Transmitted Infection Advisory Committee for WA, stemming from an interest managing the Australian Syphilis epidemic. He is the 2025 NAIDOC Person of the Year, the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association's 2024 Indigenous Doctor of the Year, and the 2022 RACGP WA GP in Training of the Year.

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Award Winners

THE HIPPOCRATES AWARD

presented to Dr Simon Towler ~ acknowledges a doctor who has made an outstanding contribution to health.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

presented to Elizabeth Perron AM ~ acknowledges a non-doctor who has made an outstanding contribution to health.

THE MEDICAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

presented to Caitlin McEwen ~ acknowledges a medical student who has made a significant and outstanding contribution as a future changemaker in the profession and in the community in areas such as education, advocacy, leadership and service.

THE DHASWA CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD (the Jonathan Morling Legacy Award)

presented to Dr Maria Foundas ~ acknowledges the doctor who has done the most to champion the cause of doctors' and medical student health in Western Australia.

THE JUNIOR DOCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD (Dr Camille Michener Legacy Award)

presented to Dr Jemma Hogan ~ acknowledges a junior doctor who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the medical profession and the community in areas such as teaching and education, leadership and advocacy, doctors' wellbeing and community service.

THE INAUGURAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

presented to St John of God Health Care ~ recognises the health service provider with the highest overall score for delivering quality training, support and workplace conditions in the AMA (WA) Hospital Health Check.

THE INAUGURAL PRACTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

presented to Pramana Medical Centre ~ recognises a medical practice that exemplifies excellence in clinical care, innovation, staff wellbeing and community engagement.

THE ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

presented to Dr Daniel Hunt ~ acknowledges a doctor who has shown remarkable dedication and leadership in promoting positive change and enhancing the wellbeing of their colleagues throughout the healthcare industry.