



Good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia.

MEDIA RELEASE

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Winning rural pharmacy goes the extra 100 miles to provide services to Kimberley communities

The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) is delighted to congratulate Kimberley Pharmacy Services (KPS) in Broome, Western Australia, on being named the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's *2015 Pharmacy of the Year*. KPS has also been recognised for *Excellence in Community Engagement*.

To service an area twice the size of Victoria, the team at KPS provides medication support through pharmacist visits, phone and email services and after-hours support. Strong professional relationships have been built with clinics across the region to help improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Gordon Gregory, CEO of the NRHA, said the team at KPS demonstrate what can be achieved through the innovation and cooperation that often exist among health professionals - even in the most challenging rural and remote settings. Pharmacy co-owners Hannah Mann and Terry Battalis will be talking about KPS and its work at the 2015 National Rural Health Conference in Darwin. Terry is a former rural pharmacy representative on Council of the NRHA.

“Their presentation will provide an overview of the development and implementation of their work and how it is improving access to pharmacy services and overall health,” Mr Gregory said.

Hannah said the pharmacy's aim is to change at least one person's health outcome each day through the services they provide physically with medications, via education, or through improved engagement.

As well as the presentation by Hannah and Terry, the 13th National Rural Health Conference in Darwin has concurrent sessions on the Quality Use of Medicines, Closing the Gap and many other current issues. There is also a pre-Conference workshop on Sunday 24 May, organised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, on *Medicines in the Bush*.

A video on Kimberley Pharmacy Services is at <https://youtu.be/XkxJlQiTc78>

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The National Rural Health Alliance is Australia's peak non-government organisation for rural and remote health. Its vision is good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia.