

### **Congratulations to Rural Doctor of the Year, Maxine Percival**

The Barwon Division of General Practice congratulates Moree's Dr Maxine Percival on her outstanding achievement in being named 2009 Rural Doctor of the Year.

Dr Percival received the honour at a ceremony on the weekend where she was recognised for her exceptional service to the Moree community over the past 25 years.

Chair of the Barwon Division of General Practice Dr Grahame Deane said Dr Percival was a most deserving winner of the prestigious award.

"Maxine has been dedicated to serving the people of Moree through general practice and obstetrics services for the past 25 years and it is wonderful that her outstanding commitment to rural medicine is being recognised in this way", Dr Deane said.

"The obstetrics services Maxine has provided have given women in Moree the security of being able to choose to give birth in their home town where their families and support systems are close, instead of having to travel at least three hours to Tamworth or further.

"She has also been an outstanding advocate for rural health, serving as an executive Member and Vice President of the Rural Doctors Association and a board member and former Chair of the Rural Doctors' Network.

"Maxine has championed rural health through the teaching and supervision of medical students in her practice, campaigning to stop the closures of rural obstetrics units and advocating increased access to the health system for Indigenous people.

"She is truly a deserving winner of this award and we are very fortunate to have a medical practitioner of her calibre in this region", Dr Deane said.

Dr Percival practices at the Associate Medical Practice in Moree and is a Visiting Medical Officer at Moree Hospital. She accepted her award at the Rural Doctors' Association and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine Conference on the weekend.

*Media contact:*

*Dr Grahame Deane, BDGP Chair/Medical Director, 0428 262 423*