

**Australian Medical Association Limited**  
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**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 8PM AEST SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018\*\***

**ADVOCATE FOR RURAL HEALTH HONOURED**

*AMA President’s Award*  
**2018 AMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE - #amanatcon**  
**QT Canberra, 25-27 May 2018**

A country GP with decades of service to both his community and the State and Federal AMAs has been recognised with one of the AMA’s highest honours, the President’s Award.

Dr David Rivett OAM, a GP in the Batemans Bay area of the New South Wales south coast since 1975, was the inaugural chair of the AMA Council of Rural Doctors, and the first AMA Federal Councillor for Rural Doctors.

Announcing the award at the AMA National Conference in Canberra tonight, AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said that Dr Rivett is particularly known for his contribution to general practice and rural medicine.

“Dr Rivett has been a trailblazer for rural medicine at both the State and Federal levels of the AMA,” Dr Gannon said.

“He was the Chair of the AMA Council of General Practice from 1999 to 2004, and was the inaugural Chair of the AMA Rural Reference Group from 2005 to 2009, staying on in the role when the group was renamed the AMA Rural Medical Committee.

“He became the first AMA Federal Councillor for Rural Doctors in 2015, and also chaired the newly formed AMA Council of Rural Doctors until 2016.

“In 2007, Dr Rivett was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for outstanding service to rural and remote medicine.

“He has been a passionate advocate for better access to quality health services for country Australians throughout his career, and for encouraging doctors to train and work in regional and remote areas.

“His commitment to rural medicine stems in part from the wide variety of work a rural doctor can do – from delivering babies to performing autopsies, and from stitching up chainsaw wounds to removing maggots from a hospital patient’s ear.

“Dr Rivett sums up the versatility, camaraderie, and good humour that is so essential in rural and remote practice, and he is an outstanding recipient of the President’s Award.”

The President’s Award may be made to a person, not necessarily a medical practitioner, who, in the eyes of the AMA President, has made an outstanding contribution toward furthering the objectives of the AMA.

Past recipients include: Dr Bernard Pearn-Rowe, an advocate for GPs; Dr Paul Bauert OAM, the Director of Paediatrics at Royal Darwin Hospital and an advocate for the health and welfare of Indigenous Australians and children in immigration detention; and Dr Graeme Killer, a Vietnam veteran who has devoted his life to the care of Defence Force personnel and veterans.

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26 May 2018

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## **AMA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FULL CITATION**

### **DR DAVID RIVETT OAM MBBS, FACRRM, FAMA**

Dr David Rivett is a highly respected member of the AMA, having given outstanding service to the organisation in a number of roles at both Federal and State level.

Dr Rivett is particularly known for his contribution to general practice and rural medicine. He was the Chair of the AMA Council of General Practice from 1999 to 2004, and was the inaugural Chair of the AMA Rural Reference Group from 2005 to 2009. He stayed on in this role when this group was renamed the AMA Rural Medical Committee. Dr Rivett became the first Federal AMA Councillor for Rural Doctors in 2015, also chairing the newly formed AMA Council of Rural Doctors until 2016.

Dr Rivett has represented the AMA in multiple forums, including the Relative Value Study, the GP MOU Group, General Practice Reference Group working parties, General Practice Partnership Advisory Council, Attendance Item Restructure Working Group, the Point of Care Testing Advisory Group, Medical Benefits Consultative Committee advisory groups, and Department of Veterans' Affairs committees including the DVA Local Medical Officer Advisory Committee and DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program Reference Committee.

#### Fellowships

- FACRRM 1998
- FAMA 2000

#### AMA duties

- NSW AMA Branch Councillor 1995-2016
- Chair AMA NSW Hospital Practice Committee 1997-1999
- Vice President AMA NSW 1999-2000
- Federal AMA Councillor for ACT&NSW 1997-1999
- Federal AMA Councillor for General Practice 1999-2004
- Federal AMA Councillor NSW Branch AMA 2010-11
- Federal AMA Councillor Rural Doctors 2015-16
- Member of AMA Federal Executive 1999-2000
- Chairman AMA Council General Practice 1999-2004
- Chairman AMA Rural Reference Group/Rural Medical Committee/Council of Rural Doctors 2005-2016
- Member AMA Indigenous health committee 2011-12
- Service on multiple AMA sub-committees 1997-2004 (Women in medicine, ethics, health finance and economics, Aboriginal health).