Program overview: Rural and remote Western Australia suffers from significant obstetric workforce shortages, with many areas not having resident specialist obstetricians and relying entirely on GP obstetricians.

To support rural women to give birth close to home, with services provided by skilled GP obstetricians, Rural Health West implemented the highly successful GP Obstetrics Mentoring Program, which has now been operating for six years. The program supports recent DRANZCOG (Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) graduates to consolidate the skills and experience necessary to work independently as rural GP obstetricians.

The recent graduate is linked to an experienced rural GP obstetrician or specialist who can provide support, assistance and mentoring with deliveries and obstetric cases. Funding is provided to the graduate and the supervisor/mentor to support these aims.

Evaluation overview: To date, there have been 37 new DRANZCOG graduates funded under this program. Rural Health West is undertaking a formal evaluation of the program, which will include:

- collating and reporting on the current post-participation evaluations
- undertaking a survey of all previous participants to assess their satisfaction with the program and to identify opportunities for improvement
- seeking to determine whether involvement in the program lead to improved retention of participants compared to non-participating rural GP obstetricians.

Presentation content: The presentation will include:

- an overview of GP obstetric workforce issues in rural and remote WA
- description of the program
- evaluation process
- qualitative and quantitative evaluation outcomes.