

2026 SUN PHARMA RURAL DERMATOLOGY NURSES AWARD

A closer look: Harriet's reflection

Receiving the 2026 Sun Pharma Rural Dermatology Nurses Award was incredibly meaningful to me. Dermatology nursing, particularly skin cancer prevention and early detection, is an area of nursing I am genuinely passionate about, and I feel very fortunate to be able to take this work directly into workplaces and regional communities.

I used the award funding to purchase a new dermatoscope, which will directly support and enhance my clinical practice. While it may seem like a simple piece of equipment, for me it represents the ability to continue providing high-quality skin screening and education to people who may not otherwise prioritise, or have easy access to, preventative skin health services.

Much of my work involves meeting people who have spent many years working outdoors, including those in agriculture, construction, civil works and local government. Many have experienced significant occupational UV exposure throughout their working lives. One of the things I value most about my role is being able to meet people where they are and take preventative healthcare directly into their workplace or community.

Over the years, I have learnt that a skin check is about much more than identifying a concerning lesion. It creates an opportunity to have a conversation. Sometimes I am screening someone who has never had their skin checked despite decades of working outdoors. Sometimes I am explaining why a lesion needs further assessment, or helping someone understand what changes they should be looking for in their own skin. Other times, it is simply a conversation about sun protection and how small changes can reduce their future risk – unfortunately there are still so many areas of skin cancer and sun smart practices that are unknown in the community and many myths that still need busting!

Those conversations are one of the most rewarding parts of my work, because education can continue to make a difference long after the skin check has finished.

I am extremely grateful to ADNA and Sun Pharma for this award and for recognising the contribution dermatology nurses can make within regional communities. For me, the award is both recognition of the work I have already done and encouragement to keep building on it. The dermatoscope will be used regularly in my practice and will directly support my ongoing commitment to skin cancer prevention, education and early detection.



Warm regards,

Harriet Clayton

A NOTE FROM ADNA

Stories like Harriet's are exactly why these awards exist. If you're an ADNA member doing work you're proud of, we'd love to recognise it too – awards are presented each year at the ADNA Annual National Conference, so start thinking about what you'd like to be considered for.

Find out more and apply at adna.org.au

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

The Sun Pharma Rural Dermatology Nurses Award is presented in partnership with the Australian Dermatology Nurses Association (ADNA), recognising nurses advancing skin health in regional and rural communities.

