

# Award winning service

WESTERN District Health Service has won a major healthcare award for the second year in a row.

The Primary Health Care Service of 2008 award was presented on Wednesday by the Premier John Brumby to representatives of WDHS including chief executive Jim Fletcher, board chair Mary-Ann Brown and members of the community services team.

“The award is great recognition not only for the staff involved in our health and well being programs but for all those who work behind the scenes,” Mr Fletcher said.

Mr Brumby said WDHS served some of the most remote rural communities in Victoria, with a range of innovative programs.

“The service has an excellent track record of participating in trial projects and pursuing innovative programs to benefits the communities it serves,” he said.

The significant primary health work of Western District Health was recognised this year through the provision of \$2.4 million over four years towards the creation of a National Centre for Farmer Health in Hamilton, as part of its \$205 million Future Farming Strategy.

The centre is being developed in conjunction with Deakin University Medical School and aims to improve the health and well-being of farm workers and their families across Australia through research, and education and training programs for rural health professionals.