

National Rural Health Alliance e-forum 2 October 2009

30 Second Survey

The Alliance would appreciate your views on its fortnightly e-forum

If you have 30 seconds to spare please click this link: [NRHA e-forum Survey](#)

This survey is anonymous but if you need us to respond send an email to

nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

Thank you for your help.

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SEPTEMBER 2009 E-NEWS FROM THE NRHA

Provide your feedback on Health Reform

As you know, the Australian Government has recently issued reports from three major reviews into Australia's health system: the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC); the Preventive Health Task Force; and on the National Primary Health Care Strategy. The Alliance prepared submissions to these enquiries and has submitted a formal response to the final report of the NHHRC.

In a new section on the Alliance website you will find a range of information relating to the current health reform agenda. Soon there will be a series of NRHA Health Reform Notes dealing with some of the critical issues being considered by the Government. The Alliance will use these Notes to seek comments from interested consumers and health practitioners on the reform proposals.

We would value your input into the current health reform proposals, particularly your views on what will and won't work in your area.

Other NRHA policy work

The Alliance has recently published a position paper on the rural and remote implications of a national e-health strategy.

Submissions have been made to the Health Workforce Committee on the proposed registration and accreditation scheme, and to the Department of Health and Ageing on the development of a new national women's health policy.

Electronic versions of these are available in the 'Publications' section of <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

The Alliance has been invited to meet with the Rural Health Standing Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) in Alice Springs in November 2009 to continue joint work on the development of a new national strategic framework or plan for rural and remote health.

NRHA Public Seminar: "From healthy ageing to end-of-life care in rural and remote Australia"

The Alliance's Public Seminar this year will be on healthy ageing and end-of-life care in rural and remote Australia. It will be on Tuesday, 17 November 2009 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Theatre in Canberra.

If you would like to attend please email your details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

Rural and Remote Health Papers 1999-2009 CD

The Rural and Remote Health Papers 1999-2009 will soon be available free to all friends of the Alliance. Make sure your membership is up-to-date to receive your copy.

Join friends and receive a CD, hat and pin A membership form is available on the friends page of the Alliance's website: <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Partyline

The next edition of Partyline will be published in December. Previous editions can be accessed on the Partyline page of the Alliance's website. If you would like to contribute to the next edition (article, photo, letter to the editor, poem) please contact the editor at partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

Australian Journal of Rural Health

Issue 17(5) of the Australian Journal of Rural Health is now available to subscribers online. There are two original peer-reviewed articles on stroke care for rural Australians, and other articles cover the role of pharmacists in managing depression, the findings from the rural and remote road safety study, and evidence about rural palliative care. Access AJRH online at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home>

NRHA Fact Sheets

The Alliance's Fact Sheets on issues relating to rural and remote health are available in the 'Fact Sheet' section of <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> We are happy to work in collaboration with other organisations on new Fact Sheets.

11th National Rural Health Conference

The 11th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Perth on 13-16 March 2011. Keep an eye on the Alliance's website for all information in relation to the 11th Conference.

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NEW AND SPECIALISED LOCUM SCHEME FOR RURAL GP ANAESTHETISTS

The Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) is rolling out the new General Practitioner Anaesthetists' Locum Scheme (GPALS). Funded by the Australian Commonwealth

Government, GPALS is designed to support GPAs located throughout rural and remote Australia (RA 2-5). Generous subsidies are available to Applicants and specialist anesthetists are welcome to participate as Locums.

The ASA is currently registering the details of all interested Applicants and Locums, with the anticipation of first placements being under way in October 2009. For more information, please call Dianne on (02) 9327 4022, send an email to gpals@fed.asa.org.au or visit the ASA website at <http://www.asa.org.au>.

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From: Hassan Ahmad <h.ahmad@amsj.org>
Subject: Australian Medical Student Journal

You may have already heard about the recently launched Australian Medical Student Journal (AMSJ) through other channels. If you haven't, please visit <http://www.amsj.org> for all details. Basically, the AMSJ is the new peer-reviewed national journal for medical students and students in health-related disciplines to publish their research, reviews, opinions and more. We could tell you more here, but it's all on the website!

There is an enormous range of scope in our submission guidelines that will hopefully suit everyone - everything from a 500 word opinion letter to a 3000 word article presenting the results of an original research project. Submission is via an easy online process. Primarily, we are looking for articles that would be of interest to a student readership. Having your work published in an academic publication this early on in your career is a fantastic achievement, and a great addition to any current qualifications.

The closing date for submissions for the first issue is November 1st, which gives you around 5 weeks if you would like to put together a submission. We would also encourage you to join our Facebook Group and help to spread the word about the journal to all of your medical student friends by inviting them to the group.

Seize this unique opportunity to be published in the inaugural issue!

AMSJ Staff

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CRRMHQ REPORTS

The Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health Queensland is based in Cairns (Queensland, Australia). It has recently released the following reports - available at <http://www.crrmhq.com.au/publications.htm>

The Building Bridges: Learning from the Experts

This project was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and drew upon Indigenous knowledge sharing between men's groups, across four sites. The report describes the implementation and findings of this community based suicide prevention initiative. Building Bridges took a multi-faceted approach to empowerment with the aim of strengthening community skills and knowledge about suicide. The project focused on

community-driven processes using the Family Well Being framework, though expanded this to enable knowledge sharing across communities regarding risk-reducing and resilience-enhancing strategies. A series of knowledge sharing events were held across far north and south west Queensland. To enhance the value of these events, a series of in-depth interviews was conducted which canvassed community members' perspectives on suicide. To complement these strategies the project integrated an innovative IT/Multimedia program which provided both a record of community experience and informed community understandings of suicide and recovery.

Key directions for a social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing population health framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in Queensland

Queensland Health and the Department of Communities provided funding to the Centre to develop a social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing population health framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in Queensland. This document provides key directions for a social, emotional, cultural and spiritual well-being framework. Its aim is to inform population level policy, program development and practice across a range of relevant sectors and agencies. Three key directions, based on the current state of evidence, are described: Build Evidence, Enhance Capacity and Develop Workforce. A rationale and examples of current initiatives and recommended actions are outlined for each key direction.

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Partyline is the newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance. Partyline enables communication within the rural community and invites contributions about issues relating to health and wellbeing in rural, regional and remote parts of Australia. Subscription is free. All back copies of Partyline are available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

To submit contributions or request subscription, email partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

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RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SBS Television will broadcast three Rural Health Education Foundation programs during September and October 2009. SBS One will air the three programs, which all highlight successful community initiatives for promoting good health and have a strong Indigenous focus, on Monday afternoons at 5.30pm beginning September 28th. The programs are:

It Takes a Village (26 mins) - Monday September 28th at 5.30pm)

This program illustrates the belief that strong communities and support networks are essential to the effective functioning of families, and help them to provide a safe and healthy environment for their children. The program, which premiered on the Foundation's own national satellite broadcast network in October 2008, features three filmed case studies of interventions that aim to reduce isolation and build stronger networks and communities.

Stay Strong (26 mins) - Monday October 5th at 5.30pm)

A half-hour program which focuses on the challenge for Indigenous kids in the 6 to 12 years age group to "stay strong". The program, which premiered on the Foundation's own national

satellite broadcast network in February 2009, examines some successful community-based health and education initiatives that put an emphasis on prevention and health promotion.

Strong and Deadly (26 mins) - Monday October 12th at 5.30pm)

This program focuses on Indigenous young people in the 12-18 years age-group who have grown up against a background of entrenched social and economic disadvantage, and in many cases have experienced stressful life events. The program, which also premiered on the Foundation's satellite network in February 2009, presents several community-based initiatives that draw on culture to provide programs that are having a significant impact on the health and well-being of Indigenous young people.

For more information about the programs or of the Rural Health Education Foundation please visit <http://www.rhef.com.au> or contact the Foundation directly on 02 6232 5480.

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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=2>

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AIHW REPORTS

Health spending passes \$100 billion

Australia's spending on health goods and services is now in excess of \$100 billion a year. The AIHW report, Health expenditure Australia 2007-08, shows total health expenditure in Australia was \$104 billion in 2007-08, and was 9.1% of gross domestic product (GDP). This was the same percentage of GDP as the previous year.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090930.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10954>

Injury deaths twice as likely for men

Men are twice as likely as women to suffer injury-related deaths according to a AIHW report, Injury deaths, Australia 2004-05. The report also found people living in remote areas were more likely to die from an injury, with the rate almost 2.5 times greater in very remote areas than in major cities.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090925.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10777>

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The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals. Get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health! The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health.

Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to AJRH. The Australian Journal of Rural Health is published on behalf of

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October 2009 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorials

Peer review: The key to quality and relevance

Organised stroke care for rural Australians

Original Articles

Equipping patients for a time of helplessness: An educational intervention

Rural pharmacist perceptions of a project assessing their role in the management of depression

Mediating and moderating effects of work-home interference upon farm stresses and psychological distress

All-terrain vehicle crashes and associated injuries in north Queensland: Findings from the Rural and Remote Road Safety Study

Correlates of comorbid mental disorders in a regional community-based sample

Linkage, coordination and integration: Evidence from rural palliative care

Kids with confidence: A program for adolescents living in families affected by mental illness

Excellence in regional stroke care: An evaluation of the implementation of a stroke care unit in regional Australia

Short Reports

Assessment of the efficacy and performance of the New South Wales Rural Mental Health Support line

Clinical leadership in rural psychiatry: Farmers' mental health and well-being

Grazing

Sense of place

From the Journal Associates

Rural nursing and midwifery workforce: Sustaining and growing our future workforce

NRHA: Responding to the Commission's Report

Further information at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

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LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE - 1300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service Lifeline's Information Service is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit <http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice> and further information is available at infoservice@lifeline.org.au and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Looking into Indigenous Eye Health

A national report into Indigenous eye health released today shows adult Indigenous Australians suffer higher rates of blindness and other eye related health problems than non-

Indigenous Australians. The National Indigenous Eye Health Survey found that 1.9 per cent of Indigenous adults were blind, over six times the rate of non-Indigenous adults. The National Indigenous Eye Health Survey was part of the Australian Government's National Eye Health Initiative, which focuses on improving the eye health of those at greater risk of eye disease and injury including people aged over 40 years, people with diabetes, people with a family history of eye disease and Indigenous Australians.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws032.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Bunbury Hosts National Health Debate

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, visited the Bunbury Hospital South West Health Campus as part of a consultation with health professionals and stakeholders on recommendations of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission report. The Bunbury consultation, held at Edith Cowan University Complex, is part of a road-test of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission's recommendations for system-wide changes to Australian health care. Today Minister Snowdon outlined the Commission's proposed reforms and listened to the local health professionals' input on where the Rudd Government should act to improve Australia's Indigenous health services and rural and remote health care - both in the Bunbury region and Australia-wide.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws033.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Primary Health Care Research Discussion in Alice

Researchers examining better ways to provide primary health care to rural and remote communities gathered in Alice Springs to showcase and share the results of their work. The conference brings together primary health care researchers and practitioners with a special focus on rural and remote health care, and is sponsored by the Australian Government's Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy (PHCRED). Mr Snowdon encouraged the experts attending the conference to comment on the three major reports informing the health reform process: the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's (NHHRC) final report, the Draft National Strategy on Primary Health Care and the National Preventative Health Strategy.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws031.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Clever Networks Grampians Rural Health Alliance Clever Health Launch

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Clever Health' is a fine example of a collaborative development approach. Congratulations to the Grampians Rural Health Alliance and to all of its partners

<http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/speeches/2009/065>

Giving Rural Obstetricians and Anaesthetists a Well Earned Rest

Rural anaesthetists will now join with outback obstetricians, both specialist and GP, in accessing Rudd Government subsidised locum support. The Australian Society of Anaesthetists will provide the GP Anaesthetist Locum Scheme. 'Under the Rudd Government's \$134.4 million Rural Health Workforce Strategy, locum support will also be made available for rural GPs, with additional incentives for urban GPs to undertake a period of locum service.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws029.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Closing the Gap - Indigenous Health Project Officers in Divisions of General Practice
The Rudd Government has provided \$34.7 million over three years to fund 94 full-time equivalent new Indigenous Health Project Officer positions as a part of the historic \$1.6 billion COAG National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes. 'Indigenous Health Project Officers in the Divisions of General Practice network and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector will work to deliver culturally appropriate primary care services to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders,' Ms Roxon said. Recruitment of the Indigenous Health Project Officers is expected to begin next month.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr158.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

The Next Generation of Indigenous Mental Health Workers

Staff and students of the Djirruwang Aboriginal Mental Health Program at Charles Sturt University (CSU) in Wagga Wagga have today been encouraged by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, to join the drive to develop and deliver Indigenous health reform. 'The Djirruwang program prepares graduates to meet Indigenous mental health needs, through both the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and mainstream mental health services,' said Mr Snowdon. 'The Rudd Government, along with state and territory governments, has put in place a huge reform agenda for Indigenous health, and I look forward to working with these graduates as they take up their careers improving the health of Aboriginal people,' Mr Snowdon said.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws026.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Training Dentists in Wagga Wagga

Construction is complete and students are enrolled at the new School of Dentistry and Health Science at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. The Australian Government has invested more than \$19.5 million in the Wagga facility including \$17.5 for the pre-clinical and clinical facilities and over \$2 million for 40 bed student accommodation. 'In addition to the capital investment in the new facilities, the Australian Government is also funding 60 dental and oral health student places at the school each year, beginning with the 2009 cohort,' Mr Snowdon said.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws027.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

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AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ONLINE

The Australian Organ Donor Register is Australia's only national organ and tissue donor register and serves as a lifeline to the people on the organ transplant waiting lists. Register online at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp> to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

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POLICY NEWS

(From <http://apo.org.au/>)

National Indigenous eye health survey

The rate of blindness in Indigenous adults is more than six times higher than non-Indigenous Australians. This is one of the findings of the National Indigenous Eye Health Survey undertaken by researchers at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) and the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne.

Key findings at <http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/news/Key%20Findings%20-%20NIEHS.pdf>

Summary report at

<http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/publications/NIEHS%20summary%20report%2028%209%2009.pdf>

Review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled alcohol and other drugs sector in Queensland

At the request of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) and Queensland Indigenous Substance Misuse Council (QISMC), the National Drug Research Institute was commissioned to conduct a review of the alcohol and other drugs sector in Queensland. This report makes 23 recommendations in relation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Alcohol and other Drug Sector in Queensland.

Recommendations are made in relation to: the organisational structure of QISMC; member support; Indigenous capacity; service provision and standards of care; staffing; training; and reporting.

<http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/pdf/publications/T194.pdf>

Indigenous eye health pioneer Hugh Taylor reflects on NT Intervention, two years on
A leading Melbourne University health expert says one of the main benefits of the NT Intervention has been getting Indigenous health back on the agenda as a major social justice issue in Australia. Professor Hugh Taylor, who is Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne, was present in a NT Aboriginal community two years ago when the first army support teams arrived, and had a chance to observe initial contact.

Although impressed with the way members of the team handled themselves, he says some of their initiatives sought to address needs that had been identified for years, such as housing, community halls and recreation facilities, women's refuges and an ongoing police presence.

<http://apo.org.au/audio/indigenous-eye-health-pioneer-hugh-taylor-reflects-nt-intervention-two-years>

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BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information <http://www.bushcrisisline.org.au>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

(See <http://www.abc.net.au/health/healthyliving/yourhealth/ruralregionalhealth/>)

'Scandalous' blindness rates can be reduced

The Federal Government says high levels of blindness in the Aboriginal population could be

prevented by a "simple" regular eye check-up.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/29/2699055.htm>

NT men urged to get prostate check-ups

Northern Territory men over the age of 50 are being urged to visit their doctors and get checked for prostate cancer.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/28/2698654.htm>

GWAHS backs doubled rural health funding

The Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) has used its annual forum to debate current state and Federal Government changes to the rural health system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/28/2698137.htm>

Central Australia 'setting good health care standard'

The head of the Centre for Remote Health is confident central Australian primary health care services are comparable with the rest of Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/25/2696572.htm>

Regional doctors get new technology

Doctors working in remote areas of Australia will soon have access to patient medical records at the click of a button. The Royal Flying Doctor Service will roll out a new electronic patient records system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/25/2696949.htm>

Call for more regional Victorian nurses

The Australian Nursing Federation says nurse to patient ratios in regional Victoria need to be improved.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/25/2696270.htm>

RURAL BABIES AT RISK - THE HUMAN FACE OF HEALTH-CARE CUTS The closure of maternity wards in regional public hospitals by state governments has meant that women living out of the cities now have longer distances to travel to deliver their babies. It's a trend that flies in the face of the Federal Government's funding initiatives to improve the choice for expectant mothers, particularly in regional areas.

7.30 Report: 21/09/2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2009/s2692462.htm>

Flying doctor predicts higher demand

The Royal Flying Doctor Service says closer ties between its state branches is needed to help secure their long-term financial security.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/22/2693024.htm>

MP urges more support for bush doctors

The Queensland Opposition says rural doctors are shying away from working in the bush because they do not get enough support from the State Government.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/22/2692615.htm>

NT gets 3 of 94 Indigenous health officers

The Federal Government says just three of 94 new Indigenous health project officers will be

based in the Northern Territory because it does not have the greatest need for them.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/21/2692248.htm>

Indigenous funding recommendations backed

The Aboriginal Health Council of WA has backed a recommendation by the State's Indigenous Advisory Board to allocate Royalties for Regions funding to Indigenous leaders.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/18/2689534.htm>

MELINDA JAMES - Reporter: People are dying in the Top End because of long delays in aeromedical evacuations and staff are at breaking point.

District medical officers and community GPs have outlined the dire situation in a letter to the director of Top End Remote Health which was leaked to the media this week. A short time ago, I spoke to the President of the Territory branch of the Australian Medical Association, Doctor Paul Bauert.

<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/nt/content/2006/s2690858.htm>

SA Liberals would 'reinstate regional hospital boards'

The South Australian Opposition says it will reinstate boards at country hospitals if it wins the next election.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/17/2688582.htm>

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RDAA NEWS

Worrying rates of fatal accidents highlight urgent need to get procedural GPs to the bush
1 October 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/AIHW%20report%20--%20September%202009.pdf

Government's cut to cataract rebate will hurt rural patients "enormously"
1 October 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Cataract%20surgery%20--%20September%202009.pdf

RDAA and RDA NSW media release -- "Closing Pambula's busy maternity unit and forcing experienced doctors off the roster.is that really the safest option?" rural doctors ask NSW Government

23 September 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Pambula%20Hospital%20maternity%20unit%20--%20September%202009.pdf

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

Impact of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza on critical care capacity in Victoria - 28
September 2009

ASID (HICSIG) position statement: infection control guidelines for patients with influenza-like illnesses, including pandemic (H1N1) influenza 2009, in Australian health care facilities - 21 September 2009

National registration legislative proposals need more work and more time - 21 September 2009

Current issue: 21 September 2009

Editorials

Maximising the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of cardiovascular disease prevention in the general population

Improving the management of chronic non-malignant pain and reducing problems associated with prescription opioids

Research

Cardiovascular disease risk management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in primary health care settings: findings from the Kanyini Audit

Adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus: incidence and survival rates in New South Wales, 1972-2005

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Victoria: a 10-year review

Cost is a major barrier to the use of inhaled corticosteroids for obstructive lung disease
Health Care

Gaps in cardiovascular disease risk management in Australian general practice

A pilot study of trimodality breast imaging surveillance in young women at high risk of breast cancer in Western Australia

Position Statement

Acute coronary syndromes: consensus recommendations for translating knowledge into action

Position statement of the Australian Diabetes Society: individualisation of glycated haemoglobin targets for adults with diabetes mellitus

Viewpoint - Our public health system: an accident waiting to happen?

Diagnostic Dilemmas - A case of discordant HbA1c: a method-dependent error

Notable Cases - Early use of high-dose insulin euglycaemic therapy for verapamil toxicity

Letters

Inappropriate prescribing for osteoporosis

Should aspirin be used for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes?

Perinatal transmission of hepatitis B virus: an Australian experience

Quality of drug interaction alerts in prescribing and dispensing software

Pathology processes and emergency department length of stay: the impact of change

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ARTICLE IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Accommodation needs for carers of and adults with intellectual disability in regional Australia: their hopes for and perceptions of the future'

This article provides a snapshot of the accommodation issues faced by adults with intellectual disability living at home with parents or in supported accommodation in an Australian regional setting. What are the hopes and dreams of this ageing and vulnerable population and their carers - and what is the reality?

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1239>

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Cancer Council Oceania Conference, 'Reducing Inequality through Tobacco Control'
Darwin Convention Centre
7-9 October 2009
<http://www.oceaniatc2009.org/>

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"TIME to ACT" - 7TH NATIONAL FARM HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

Farmsafe WA Alliance is hosting "Time to Act" - 7th National Farm Health and Safety Conference on behalf of Farmsafe Australia.
13th to 15th October 2009 - The Vines Resort, Swan Valley

This national conference aims to reflect and build on changing the safety culture on farms and in rural communities. The program is a diverse and colourful event that is underpinned by quality abstracts and spear-headed by several outstanding individuals whose presentations will inspire, inform and entertain.

Nestled in the beautiful Swan Valley, just 25 minutes from Perth, The Vines Resort is a preferred location for business and leisure travellers with its world-class country club facilities and 18 hole championship golf course.

The conference is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more and discuss safety issues and injury prevention strategies in the agriculture and associated industries; network with national and international delegates as well as be inspired by our guest speakers. As well as an informative conference program, activities such as the Field Tour, presentation of the National Farm Safety Awards and a 4-wheel motorbike demonstration will ensure you will benefit from this conference.

You may also like to add to your itinerary the famous 'Spring in the Valley' - celebrating WA's finest food and wine destination, on the 10th and 11th October.

Further information can be found by visiting the website <http://www.farmsafewa.org/page/National-Conference.aspx> or by contacting Michelle Taylor, Farmsafe WA Alliance on 9359 4118 or email farmsafe_eo@westnet.com.au

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1st International Conference on Health Services Delivery Management (1st CHSDM)
Phitsanulok Thailand 14-16th October 2009

The 1st International Conference on Health Services Delivery Management (1st CHSDM) is open to all individuals interested in the field of health services delivery management. The particular focus of the conference is on strengthening the management of Primary Health Care and district rural health services. Australian (including Indigenous) speakers will feature alongside international and Thai presenters. Call for abstracts is now open.

Conference partners include WHO SEARO, Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE), University of New England (UNE) Australia and Naresuan University Thailand, Thai Ministry of Public Health and Thailand Cardiac Children's Foundation.

The conference partners welcome participants from developing and developed countries who want to work collaboratively towards improving health systems to deliver quality health care by learning from each other and comparing health systems in international contexts.

For further details please go to the Conference website <http://www.health.nu.ac.th/hdm2009>

Contacts: Dr. David Briggs UNE dbriggs@une.edu.au; Dr P. Taytiwat taytiwat@yahoo.com; Carolyn Marsh ACHSE cmarsh@achse.org.au

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The Rural Medicine Australia 2009 Conference

Conference Hosts:

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 is the tenth annual conference jointly hosted by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA). This year, we welcome the participation of the Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDAV) and the National Rural Medical Family Network.

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 will present outstanding opportunities for doctors and other health professionals working in rural and remote medicine to connect with colleagues, learn new skills, share their knowledge - and enjoy a brief respite from the pressures of work.

The conference sessions and workshops will emphasise practical skills and knowledge with immediate application to the demands of rural medicine. The conference welcomes other professionals - including allied health workers and government representatives - who share the commitment to quality health care for Australians living in rural and remote communities.

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 will run from Thursday, 29 October to Sunday 1 November 2009 in Melbourne.

Information available at <http://www.acrrm.com.au/>

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CRRMHQ THIRD Anniversary Symposium - Looking back, moving forward

Friday 30 October 2009

Urban Hotel, 345 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane

8.30am to 4.00pm. Lunch included

Join us as we share some lessons learnt and explore new ideas and ways to move forward.

* How do we collaborate with Indigenous Australians to promote social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing?

* How do we tackle the impact of environmental adversities and build resilience in rural and

remote communities?
* How do we make a difference?

A selection of our speakers include:
Professor Jean Palutikof Director, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Griffith University
Dr Aaron Groves Deputy Director General, Queensland Health
Professor Yvonne Cadet-James Chair of Indigenous Studies, James Cook University
Dr James Butler Leader, Landscapes & Livelihoods Group, Social and Economic Sciences Program, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australian Tropical Forest Institute, James Cook University
Mr Rod Saal Drought Coordinator, AgForce Queensland
Professor Paul Memmott Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, University of Queensland

RSVP by Friday 9 October 2009
Karen or Chintana
Phone: (07) 4032 6700
Email: admin@crrmhq.com.au

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1st Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium, in Canberra, on 2-3 November
<http://anzmh.asn.au/rmha9/>

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Year of the Blood Donor 2009
An anticipated doubling of demand for blood and blood products within 10 years has led the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to launch a nationwide recruitment drive in 2009 Year of the Blood Donor. The Blood Service is appealing for more than 100,000 new blood donors this year, in addition to the 40,000 who registered across Australia to give blood in the week after the Victorian bushfires.
http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/Year_of_the_Blood_Donor_2009

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NACCHO AGM/ MEMBERS MEETING
10-13 NOVEMBER
CROWNE PLAZA, DARWIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Elaine Lomas
NACCHO secretariat
0262480644 or Elaine@naccho.org.au

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NRHA Public Seminar: "From healthy ageing to end-of-life care in rural and remote Australia"

The Alliance's Public Seminar this year will be on healthy ageing and end-of-life care in rural and remote Australia. It will be on Tuesday, 17 November 2009 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Theatre in Canberra.

If you would like to attend please email your details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

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Australia's welfare 2009 conference-Canberra, 17 November 2009

Our one-day national welfare conference offers a value-for-money opportunity to hear from international and Australian experts and get the latest statistics on social inclusion and welfare services. This year's event features the Reverend Tim Costello, Australian of the Year Mick Dodson, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, and Chair of the Australian Social Inclusion Board Patricia Faulkner.

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,7be89b98-74da-47c9-bca4-a617198cc580>

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Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Care 2009, Sydney, 25-26 November

This conference will provide a platform for consultation and negotiation to foster and nurture strong partnerships to meet objectives, improve outcomes and deliver outputs to 'Close the Gap' in health disadvantage. For more information, enquiries and registration email

registration@criterionconferences.com tel 1300 316 882 fax 1300 918 334 web

<http://www.indigenoushealthcare.com/>>

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From: Elisia Dowling <edowling@parks.vic.gov.au>

Subject: International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress

With the increasing recognition of the value of nature to human health and wellbeing worldwide, Parks Victoria will host the inaugural International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia from 11-16 April 2010.

This will be a unique opportunity to bring together delegates from all relevant sectors (i.e. planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, climate change, education, recreation, ecology and park management) to explore how we can take better advantage of the way nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits.

We are seeking proposals under the following themes: Healthy Communities, Healthy Parks, Healthy Participation, Healthy People and subthemes.

In addition to the partners displayed on the website, the support of the World Health Organisation, United Nations World Tourism Organisation, US Federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Australian Federal Government Department of Health & Ageing is being sought.

<http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org>

Elisia Dowling
Project Officer
International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress April 11-16, 2010
Parks Victoria
Level 10/535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000, Australia
Ph: (03) 8680 2138 Fax: (03) 9613 4722 M: 0428 598 322

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Healing Our Spirit 2010

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and researchers are advised to start planning now for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide The Sixth Gathering, which is due to take place on the island of Honolulu in Hawaii from 3 to 10 September 2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW) is to celebrate the diverse and unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health is a proud supporter of and committed participant in the gathering, which will be hosted by native Hawaiian healthcare organisation Papa Ola Lōkahi (<http://www.papaolalokahi.org>).

For more information:
Maria Halkitis - Contract Manager, 08 8943 5020
Mick Gooda - CEO, 0409 688 403

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is published fortnightly. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the views of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au

Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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