

National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 2 November 2009

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National Rural Health Alliance eforum survey

The Alliance would appreciate your views on the fortnightly eforum.

Please help us by going to

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DmMTofNKCvkzOM_2fCvyj3Ig_3d_3d and completing the survey. It will only take 30 seconds. This survey is anonymous but if you would like to provide additional comments send an email to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

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October 2009 E-news from the NRHA

Provide your feedback on Health Reform

The new **Health Reform** section <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/reform/?IntCatId=42> of the Alliance website has notes on rural aspects of the current reform agenda: including whether the Commonwealth should be responsible for all primary care; and on the pros and cons of comprehensive primary care centres, and regional primary healthcare organisations.

We would value your input and comments on these three and the other six health reform notes - particularly on what will and won't work in your area. Please send your feedback to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

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

Australia''

The Public Seminar <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/seminars/?IntContId=14799&IntCatId=18> will feature overseas experts on how arts are being used to support healthy ageing, updates on the latest rural research from Carers Australia, news from Palliative Care Australia about end-of-life care in rural areas, and a peek into the fascinating world of Frontier Services - the leading provider of aged care and child and family support in remote Australia.

There is no cost for this Seminar - it is being held on Tuesday 17 November 2009 at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Theatre in Canberra.

To register please email your details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

RAMUS Applications

The 2010 application round for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme will open on 4 November 2009. RAMUS is open to students with a rural background commencing or already enrolled in medical studies in 2010. Keep an eye on the RAMUS page <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntCatId=7> of the website for details.

Other NRHA work

The Alliance's annual face-to-face meeting will be held in Canberra in November. This will be a good opportunity for the Alliance to promote the interests of people in rural and remote areas to Parliamentarians and the media. It is vital that, in pursuing its health reform agenda, the Australian Government, as well as the States and Territories keeps a focus on the way that policies and programs impact on health outcomes and services in rural areas.

Alliance policy documents are available in the 'Publications' <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntCatId=6> section of www.ruralhealth.org.au

'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009'

The updated 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' CD will soon be available free to all friends of the Alliance. Make sure your membership is up-to-date to receive your copy.

A membership form is available on the friends <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4> page of the Alliance's website.

Partyline

The next edition of Partyline <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6> will be published in December. Previous editions can be accessed on the Partyline <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6> page of the 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 <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/ajrh/?IntCatId=20> is now available to subscribers online and in hard copy. There are original peer-reviewed articles on stroke care for rural Australians, the

role of pharmacists in managing depression, the findings from the rural and remote road safety study, and evidence on 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 <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/factsheets/?IntCatId=41> section of <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> We are happy to work in collaboration with other organisations on new Fact Sheets.

Follow us on twitter

Are you a tweeter? You can now keep up to date with the Alliance on our Twitter <http://twitter.com/NRHAAlliance> page.

11th National Rural Health Conference

Set aside the date now!! The 11th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Perth on 13-16 March 2011.

We look forward to hearing from you on all things rural and remote.

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HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE RURAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Should the Commonwealth take responsibility for all primary care in Australia, and how would consumers in rural and remote areas benefit from the proposed augmentation of 'comprehensive primary care centres and services'? These are two of the topics raised in a series of thought-provoking notes, posted on the National Rural Health Alliance website, to inform and engage consumers about the ongoing process of health reform. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/nrha-mr-30-10-09.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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NRHA PUBLIC SEMINAR

From creative ageing to end-of-life in rural and remote Australia"
NRHA Public Seminar, Tuesday, 17 November 2009, 9am - 12.30pm
CSIRO Discovery Centre. North Science Road, ANU
Directions: http://tiny.cc/venue_location

Program at: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/seminars/?IntContId=14799&IntCatId=18>

See also Alliance announcement at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/nrha-mr-29-10-09.pdf> and below.

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Dementia Community Support Grants - Round Three

On 24 September 2009, the Minister for Ageing, the Hon Justine Elliot MP announced \$1.5 million for Round Three of the Dementia Community Support Grants.

You may wish to consider applying for a Grant. The key priority areas for Round Three of the Dementia Community Support Grants include:

- * promotion and/or awareness raising;
- * early intervention and risk reduction; and
- * providing local support for families and/or carers.

The Department would also encourage you to circulate this notice to any organisations you feel may be interested in applying for Dementia Community Support Grants, particularly those that focus on the above priority areas or targeting culturally and linguistically diverse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or regional, rural and remote communities.

One off funding of up to \$50,000.00 (GST Exclusive) per successful application is available. Grant applications close at 2pm Thursday 3 December 2009.

For more information on the Dementia Community Support Grants - including how to apply please go to <http://www.health.gov.au/tenders> or send an email to dementia@health.gov.au

Kate Jorgenson
Assistant Director
Dementia Policy and Programs Section
Office for an Ageing Australia
Department of Health and Ageing
(02) 6289 5855 (phone)
(02) 6289 1330 (fax)
Kate.Jorgenson@health.gov.au

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Subject: Quality Use of Pathology Workshops
From: Sarah Watt

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) is currently undertaking a consumer consultation project on the quality use of pathology to engage, inform and consult with CHF members about current pathology practice in Australia. Through consumer consultation, we aim to establish an evidence base to identify consumer issues including gaps, opportunities, facilitators and barriers to the quality use of pathology.

A series of consumer consultation workshops are being held in all states and territories during November and December. CHF is seeking expressions of interest from consumers who wish to attend these workshops to share their experiences about pathology services and quality use of pathology.

Travel assistance is available for a limited number of places and a participation fee will be paid to consumer attendees.

The dates and locations of the workshops are below. Please contact Sarah Watt, CHF Project Officer to register your interest in attending a workshop at s.watt@chf.org.au or ph. (02)

6273 5444.

At this stage exact venues have not been confirmed but as soon as we have this information we will update interested participants.

Tuesday 10 November morning Sydney
Wednesday 18 November morning Darwin
Friday 20 November morning Brisbane
Thursday 26 November morning Hobart
Friday 27 November morning Melbourne
Thursday 3 December afternoon Canberra
Wednesday 9 December morning Perth
Friday 11 December morning Adelaide

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2010 MEMBERSHIP OF FRIENDS NOW OPEN

Join or renew your *friends* of the Alliance membership for 2010 before Christmas to receive a friends' sunhat and pin. Download the membership form at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/friends/friendsmembership.pdf> or via the *friends* page of the NRA website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>

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Federal Government losing the way on Closing the Gap - NACCHO

The Federal Government is losing the way on closing the gap on Aboriginal disadvantage says Dr Mick Adams, chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), the peak body for Aboriginal medical services. "After almost two years in office, the government is still only applying bandaid remedies and not genuinely engaging Aboriginal peoples in developing long term solutions to close the gap" Dr Adams said.

Full statement at <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/09-10-30%20Federal%20Government%20losing%20the%20way%20on%20Closing%20the%20Gap%20Media%20Release.pdf>

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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 www.ruralhealth.org.au

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

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Antarctic doctor to head Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

The Australian Antarctic Division's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeff Ayton, has been elected the new President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). Dr Ayton has been ACRRM's Tasmanian Director since 2008 and will take over the national role from Associate Professor Dennis Pashen. Dr Ayton is a rural GP obstetrician and anaesthetist and has been Chief Medical Officer at the Division for 7 years.

<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=37024&source=17&rank=2>

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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

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

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AIHW REPORT

More breast cancer cases, but early detection and improved treatment lead to fewer deaths.

More women are being diagnosed with breast cancer than ever before, but death rates continue to fall, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC). In 2006, over 12,600 women were diagnosed with breast cancer, the largest number of new cases recorded in any year to date. According to the report, 1 in 9 Australian women will develop breast cancer and 1 in 38 women will die from the disease before the age of 85. Between 1994 and 2006 the death rate from breast cancer fell by 27%. This is the lowest recorded rate in the 25 years covered in the report.

Despite these gains, the report shows some disparities in outcomes, with survival rates varying by age, geographical location, Indigenous status and socioeconomic status. For example, 90% of women with breast cancer living in areas with the highest socioeconomic status will be alive five years after their diagnosis, compared with 86% of women living in areas with the lowest socioeconomic status. The available information also suggests that although Indigenous women were significantly less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than non-Indigenous women, among those Indigenous women diagnosed, survival was poorer than for non-Indigenous women.

AIHW statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091026.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10852>

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AJRH

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 the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic. 3121 Tel: +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax: +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail: melbourne@johnwiley.com.au

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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CRCAH NEWS

Professor Ian Anderson, Director of the Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Partnerships at the University of Melbourne invites you to the launch of the University's new Institute and the first annual Parkville Indigenous oration. The NARRM Oration - will be delivered by Professor Mason Durie, Professor of Māori Research and Development & Assistant, Vice-Chancellor (Māori & Pasifika) at Massey University in New Zealand. The title of his oration is 'Indigenous Partnerships: Enduring Relationships, Knowledge Transfer and New Economies'. The Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Partnerships will be launched at the conclusion of the Oration by Professor Glyn Davis, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

Date: Thursday 5 November 2009

Time: 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

Venue: The Spot' (Basement Theatre), Faculty of Economics and Commerce, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton (corner of Pelham Street)

RSVP: Please note seating may be limited. Please send your RSVP to: Lynda Gilbert, Tel. 03 8344 9333 or Email l.gilbert@unimelb.edu.au

What do Aboriginal women think is good antenatal care? 19 October 2009 This report documents the first phase of the research project entitled Developing a Health Information System to Support Continuous Improvement in Antenatal Care for Aboriginal Women in the Central Australian Region. The project consisted of four major elements: a literature review; consultations with Aboriginal women; quantitative investigative components; and the implementation and trial pilot of a health information system for antenatal care in the primary health care setting.

<http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/downloads/Antenatal-Care-Consultation-Report-Sept-2009.pdf>

Nutrition and preventative health in Indigenous futures

19 October 2009 The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), in conjunction with the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH), hosted the 3rd National Indigenous Science and Research Roundtable entitled "Nutrition and Preventative Health in Indigenous Futures" on 4th-5th August 2009 in Adelaide, South Australia. This Roundtable fulfilled a commitment to the delegates from the inaugural Roundtable, held in Broome in July 2008, to hold future discussions with a focus on health and nutrition for Indigenous Australians.

http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/downloads/Nutrition-and-Preventative-Healthin-Indigenous-Futures_Final-Report.pdf

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Cutting through: using health information technology for effective chronic care delivery

19 October 2009

Could it be that Australia is finally on a path that will lead us forward on the e-health agenda after all the false starts we have encountered over the last decade?

This report was prepared in early 2009 by Information Integrity Solutions (IIS) for the Health Information Exchange Sub-Committee to report to the Australian National Consultative Committee on e-Health (ANCC on e-Health). It was prepared in response to the increasing need to cut through the difficult issues arising in relation to chronic care and to find a sustainable, effective and efficient solution. <http://www.iispartners.com/downloads/2009-02%20Cutting%20Through%20eHealth%20paper%20final.pdf>

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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/info-service> and further information

is available at infoservice@lifeline.org.au and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

More Funding to Support Rural Health Infrastructure

The Rudd Government will inject a further \$6.1 million to improve local health infrastructure in 40 rural and remote communities throughout Australia. The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, announced the third round of grants under the Government's National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP).

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws046.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=10>

New outreach service for rural communities

People living in rural communities will soon be able to access a wider range of Australian Government assistance from a new travelling outreach service.

<http://www.alp.org.au/media/1009/mshs220.php>

Therapy online: In cyberspace no-one can see you cry - Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

Online therapy sessions could deliver help to thousands of Australians including women seeking help with domestic violence and country people whose self-reliance, heavy work schedule and geographic isolation rule out seeing a therapist face-to-face. A review of technology use in therapy, counselling and dispute resolution by the Australian Institute of Family Studies has shown counselling in cyberspace holds 'a great deal of promise'. Young people familiar with technology may be particularly suited to online therapy.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/media/media0910020.html>

Doing it tough: Carers in rural Australia - Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

A groundbreaking study of carers in regional and remote Australia has revealed that those living in drought-affected areas are less likely to be employed full-time. The Australian Institute of Family Studies has undertaken the study - The Tyranny of Distance? Carers in Regional and Remote Areas of Australia - on behalf of Carers Australia and Commonwealth Financial Planning. It is the first study in Australia to look at carers in rural and regional Australia, and the first to examine the impact of the drought on carers employment.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/media/media0910019.html>

Delivering on national priorities for rural and regional health

Charles Sturt University (CSU) has welcomed the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and Social Inclusion, the Hon. Ms Julia Gillard, MP, of \$1.6 million in funding to establish a major Regional Inter-Professional Clinical Simulation Centre at the University's Bathurst Campus. The Regional Inter-Professional Clinical Simulation Centre will be a state-of-the-art clinical education centre consisting of an Emergency Department Resuscitation Simulation Unit, a Multi-Purpose Scenario Unit, a Control Room, lecture theatre and break out rooms. It will allow nursing and paramedic students to practise emergency health management skills in a realistic environment prior to undertaking 'real-life' practice in the community, hospitals and health facilities.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews.cfm?itemID=5AC996DDA502CFC2DE6BF1007D5135DF&printtemplate=release>

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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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National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008
(ABS Cat 4714.0)

This publication presents summary results from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from August 2008 to April 2009, collecting information from approximately 13,300 Indigenous Australians living in private dwellings in remote and non-remote areas, including discrete communities. The 2008 NATSISS provides information on a range of demographic, social, environmental and economic indicators, including: personal and household characteristics; geography; language and cultural activities; social networks and support; health and disability; education; employment; financial stress; income; transport; personal safety; and housing. Information from the 2008 NATSISS contributes to existing data on Indigenous people and the formulation of government policies and legislation. <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0?OpenDocument>

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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/>)

Flying Doctors to target preventative health

The new chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Western Australia says the organisation needs to focus more on preventative health programs. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/26/2724184.htm>

Gathering focuses on rural health boost

A state conference is being held in Ballina to look at ways of improving rural health. The New South Wales Rural Health Research Colloquium will give doctors, researchers and academics the chance to discuss the problems with the rural health system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/28/2726428.htm>

Urgent help needed to halt falling bush medical services

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia wants urgent government action to stop declining regional medical services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2720157.htm>

Academic urges homeland health support

An expert from Charles Darwin University says the Northern Territory Government's plan to develop 'hubs' in remote areas will not work unless homelands continue to be supported.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/21/2720222.htm>

'Help needed' to keep remote nurses

The peak body for Australia's remote nurses says more assistance is needed to retain staff in outback communities.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/19/2718006.htm>

Rural doctors urge more funding

The State Government is being asked to invest millions of dollars more into country Victoria's health system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/16/2715932.htm>

More federal support urged for rural doctors

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia says it is essential that the Federal Government understand the concerns of remote health professionals. The Prime Minister visited the general practice at Murray Bridge but the association hopes it will be the first of many remote and rural visits.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/15/2715166.htm>

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RDAA NEWS

Saturday / Sunday at the *Rural Medicine Australia 2009* national rural doctors' conference, Melbourne

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Medicine%20Australia%20conference%20--%20Saturday%20and%20Sunday%20--%20media%20alert%20--%202009.pdf 31 October 2009

RDAA / ACRRM media alert -- Worsening shortage of rural doctors to be key focus of national conference (*Rural Medicine Australia 2009*, Thursday 29 October to Sunday 1 November 2009, Melbourne)

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Medicine%20Australia%20conference%20and%20meeting%20--%20media%20alert%20--%20October%202009.pdf 27 October 2009

RDA NSW media release -- 'Close call' birth underlines need for Pambula maternity unit

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Pambula%20Hospital%20birth%20--%20October%202009.pdf

21 October 2009

New figures underline urgent need for action on "appalling shortage" of rural doctors
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/AIHW%20medical%20workforce%20report%20response%20--%20October%202009.pdf

20 October 2009

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AMA NEWS

Indigenous mums taken from their families more likely to be victims of violence later in life

Indigenous mothers who were removed from their natural families during childhood are more likely than other Indigenous mothers to be victims of violence, according to the results of research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

<http://www.ama.com.au/node/5082>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Rapid Online Publications

Rates of hospitalisation for acute respiratory illness and the emergence of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus in the Hunter New England Area Health Service

Can we readily identify patients who need antibiotics in a severe influenza pandemic?

Uniform format for disclosure of competing interests in ICMJE journals

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

ASID/TSANZ guidelines: treatment and prevention of H1N1 influenza 09 (human swine influenza) with antiviral agents

Current issue: 5 October 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Evidence-based managed care

Editorials

The National Hand Hygiene Initiative

Adding weight to preconception care

Management of waiting lists needs sound data

Research

Barriers to addressing overweight and obesity before conception

Reducing excessive weight gain in pregnancy: a randomised controlled trial

Doctors' Health

Keeping the doctor healthy: ongoing challenges

Australian doctors' involvement in medicolegal matters: a cross-sectional self-report study

The health and wellbeing of junior doctors: insights from a national survey

The national Junior Medical Officer Welfare Study: a snapshot of intern life in Australia -

Letter

Health Care Reform

Does the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission have a real answer for public hospitals?

Bigger is not always better: what the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission report means for general practice

The NHHRC final report: view from the hospital sector

Position Statement

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

A consensus statement on the management of pregnancy and delivery in women who are carriers of or have bleeding disorders

Viewpoint - National registration legislative proposals need more work and more time

Lessons from Practice - Recognising congenital glaucoma

Letters

Naloxone for administration by peers in cases of heroin overdose

Back pain: a National Health Priority Area in Australia?

Sociodemographic correlates of antidepressant utilisation in Australia

Coordination of care for patients with chronic disease

Supplement - Clean hands save lives - Contents

Book Reviews - Davidson's essentials of medicine

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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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Final opportunity to register for landmark Arts and Health international conference November 2009

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Outstanding capacity building / professional development opportunities

Registrations are now closing for The Art of Good Health and Wellbeing international conference, Port Macquarie NSW, 10 - 13 November 2009

Sponsored by the Department of Health and Ageing and Regional Arts Australia (NSW)

Plus Pre-conference Training and Workshops 7 - 9 November 2009

Avoid disappointment .. registrations are closing.

Conference program and online registration is available on <http://www.artsandhealth.org>

Arts and Health Australia
Regional Office: Suite 2, The Macquarie Garrison Building, 26 Clarence Street, Port
Macquarie NSW 2444
Mail: PO Box 243 Kings Cross NSW 1340
Tel: 02 6583 5040 Fax: 02 6584 0024 Mobile: 0416 641 482
Email: info@artsandhealth.org
Web: <http://www.artsandhealth.org>

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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.event.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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Consumer-Centred Health Care: Policy Innovation and Empowerment National Conference

22-23 March 2010, Melbourne Angliss Conference Centre

This key national conference over two days will explore the emerging agenda of consumer-centred health care. It is an event not to be missed for anyone with a passion for reforming our health system so that consumers and their families are at the centre of the system - in practice as well as in rhetoric.

Key themes include:

- * Commonwealth reform initiatives: driving change
- * Organising and empowering health consumers
- * *Medicare Select*: policy design and opt-in health plans
- * Self-care and self-management in health
- * Consumer-directed aged care
- * Consumer-centred innovation in mental health
- * Consumer-centred innovation in drug and alcohol rehabilitation
- * Consumer-centred systems
- * Consumer-centred funding arrangements
- * Chronic illness consolidated budgets
- * Capitation-based payment systems
- * Health brokers, care co-ordinators, health info-mediaries
- * Community engagement in health reform
- * Partnerships between practitioners and consumers

The venue is Angliss Conference Centre in Melbourne's CBD, corner of LaTrobe and Kin Streets, close to public transport and a range of accommodation options

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers, presentations, workshops and displays are invited on the conference themes. Abstracts in no more than 300 words should be forwarded by email by 31 December 2009 to vern@partnerships.org.au
Tel 0425 722 890

Register at <http://www.partnerships.org.au/>

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Subject: International *Healthy Parks Healthy People* Congress

From: Elisia Dowling

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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Rural Medicine Australia 2010

Scientific Forum: Call for abstracts
The 2010 national conference and scientific forum of ACRRM and RDAA will be in Perth in October. The scientific forum is a significant part of the conference and is held every second year. There will be a call for abstracts early in the new year. Almost 300 people attended Rural Medicine Australia 2009.

<http://www.acrrm.org.au/news/rural-medicine-australia-2010>

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The 11th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Perth on 13-16 March 2011.

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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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NRHA MEDIA RELEASE: Have your say on how to improve the rural health system

Should the Commonwealth take responsibility for all primary care in Australia, and how would consumers in rural and remote areas benefit from the proposed augmentation of 'comprehensive primary care centres and services'?

These are two of the topics raised in a series of thought-provoking notes, posted on the National Rural Health Alliance website, to inform and engage consumers about the ongoing process of health reform.

"The Government is considering proposals from three major reviews into Australia's health system, and people living in rural and remote areas are obviously interested in what these changes will mean for them," NRHA Chair, Dr Jenny May, said today.

"The Alliance prepared submissions to all three of these reviews. The Health Reform Notes now available on its website are interim positions aimed primarily at exploring the views of rural people and communities.

"We invite all those interested in rural and remote health to access the Alliance website at www.ruralhealth.org.au to gauge for themselves the issues our 28 member bodies consider to be the priority areas for reform," Dr May said.

The nine Health Reform Notes include calls for rural equivalence funding; for an improved patient assisted travel scheme to compensate rural people who need to travel long distances to access health care; for easier access to oral health care; and for a better way to develop and distribute the health workforce.

Anyone interested in providing the Alliance with feedback, comments or suggestions is asked to email a response to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au or make direct contact by phoning (02) 6285 4660.

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NRHA Media Release

29 October 2009

Finding creative ways to encourage healthy ageing in the bush

Academics from the United States and Britain, together with the heads of three key Australian agencies, will gather in Canberra next month to discuss creative ageing for Australians who live in rural and remote areas. They are due to participate in a Public Seminar at the CSIRO Discovery Centre, ANU, on Tuesday 17 November.

The overseas contingent comprises Susan Perlstein, Director of Education and Training at the National Centre on Creative Ageing in Washington DC; Mike White, Senior Fellow in Arts in Health at the Centre for Medical Humanities at the University of Durham, and Alison Clough, Director of the Pioneer Projects and Looking Well Centre at Bentham, both in the United Kingdom.

"Research shows that staying engaged in creative activities significantly improves overall health and helps to alleviate the depression that can afflict older people whose activities are restricted by the tyranny of distance," said Gordon Gregory, Executive Director of the NRHA, which is organising the half-day event.

"Given the ageing profile of rural and remote Australia we need to develop a new paradigm where, instead of seeing ageing as loss, we see it as something that involves gain. A growing body of research now shows that the ageing brain is not all a story of decline: It's not "use it or lose it" - it's "use it and improve it"."

Figures show Australia has an ageing population due largely to sustained low levels of fertility combined with increased life expectancy. Twelve per cent of the population in major cities are elderly, compared with 14 per cent in regional and 7 per cent in remote areas. Thirty-five per cent of Australians aged 65 and older live outside major cities where access to aged care, health care and ancillary services is limited.

Next month's Seminar, *'From creative ageing to end-of-life in rural and remote Australia'*, will see speakers provide evidence of the positive contributions local and outreach arts programs can make for creative ageing - and as support for overworked carers.

Dr Jenny May, Chair of the NRHA, will open the seminar in the CSIRO Discovery Centre at 9am by providing facts and figures on the ageing of rural Australia. She will be followed by the overseas speakers and Margret Meagher of Arts and Health Australia.

Joan Hughes, CEO of Carers Australia, will discuss some of the findings from the recent survey of carers in rural NSW, and Donna Daniell, of Palliative Care Australia, will describe how the challenge of end-of-life care can be met in rural and remote areas. Rosemary Young, CEO of Frontier Services, will describe some of the successes and ongoing barriers to aged care in very remote areas.

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