

National Rural Health Alliance eforum 13 November 2009

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RAMUS Scholarships now open

The 2010 application round for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme is now open for students with a rural background interested in studying medicine. The RAMUS page of the Alliance website has all the details - see <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntCatId=7> - and the Alliance announcement 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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***'Skilling up for Oral Health'* - Oral Health Workforce Forum**

2 December 2009, 9 am to 4.30 pm

Stamford Plaza, Adelaide

Are you a community services or health employer interested in the future of the Oral Health

skills for your Workforce?

'Skilling up for Oral Health' is a free forum being held in Adelaide on 2 December 2009 to discuss strategies to extend oral health skills to the broader oral health community services and health workforce. This forum represents a unique opportunity for diverse groups to meet, discuss and debate the opportunities for improved oral health outcomes across the community through workforce development.

An outstanding range of speakers will explore the challenges and opportunities for growing our workforce. Presentations will explore and discuss areas of:

- * A population health approach, with a strong focus on promoting health and prevention
- * Education and training for oral health skills
- * Strategies to extend oral health skills to the broader oral health community services and health workforce

View the Preliminary Program at <https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/cgzf0q/266533/94331my22.html>

Register online at <https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/cgzf0q/266534/9433111bm.html>

Call Lisa Woodward, Events Coordinator, t: 02 9270 6626, f: 02 9270 6601,

lisa.woodward@cshisc.com.au

or Bronwyn Walker, Project Coordinator, t: 02 9270 6635, f: 02 9270 6601,

bronwyn.walker@cshisc.com.au

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New Chair Elected to Peak Aboriginal Health Body

Mr Justin Mohamed is the new Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), the national peak body for over 145 Aboriginal community controlled medical services.

Mr Mohamed, elected the new NACCHO Chair at its Annual General Meeting in Darwin, is a Gooreng Gooreng man from Bundaberg Queensland but he has lived and worked with Victorian Aboriginal communities for the last 20 years.

Full NACCHO statement at <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/09-11-11%20New%20Chair%20elected%20to%20peak%20Aboriginal%20health%20body%20%20Release.pdf>

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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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AMA Indigenous Health Report Card

The AMA has released its eighth Indigenous Health Report Card, this year putting the focus on the tragic state of health of Indigenous males - boys, adolescents and men. Indigenous males are much more likely to die earlier from preventable causes than non-Indigenous males and Indigenous females. At every age - from boyhood to manhood - Indigenous males experience higher rates of diseases and conditions that are totally preventable. There is evidence that the loss of status, self-esteem and sense of purpose experienced by many Indigenous men is intimately bound up with their poor health as both a cause and an effect.

In this Report Card, the AMA sets out some solutions to help improve the health and quality of life of Indigenous males, and gives examples of Good News Stories where innovative programs are providing healthier lifestyles for men and boys alike.

Details at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5114>

Opposition health spokesperson, Senator Scullion, blasted Federal Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon for sitting on his hands while presiding over the 'tragic state' of Indigenous health. "The Australian Medical Association's national annual study on the health of Indigenous males shows that Indigenous men continue to die earlier from illnesses and injuries which are largely avoidable," Senator Scullion said.

Full statement at <http://www.liberal.org.au/news.php?Id=4140>

The AMA also said that more needs to be done to prevent hearing loss from middle ear inflammation among Indigenous children. Each year, three to five Australian children die from complications related to otitis media and another 15 suffer permanent hearing loss,

according to the editor of a supplement on the condition published in the 2 November issue of the "Medical Journal of Australia".

See full statement at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5081>

Another MJA article indicates that indigenous mums taken from their families more likely to be victims of violence later in life. A quarter of Indigenous women living with dependent children aged under 15 years have been victims of violence, according to analysis of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

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

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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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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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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

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

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AIHW REPORTS

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare will be launching "*Australia's welfare 2009*" on 17 November 2009 at the Australia's welfare conference. "*Australia's welfare 2009*" provides the most comprehensive and authoritative source of national information on welfare services in Australia, encompassing children, youth and families, aged care, disability and carers, housing and homelessness and more.

The one-day conference, dinner and a copy of "*Australia's welfare 2009*" is great value at \$385 (inc. GST). Concession rates available.

Can't make it to the conference? Then pre-order your copy of "*Australia's welfare 2009*" for \$60, at http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/aw09/aw09_preorder_form.pdf

Immunisations push public health spending up 21%

Australia's spending on public health activities - those of a preventive, protective or health promoting nature - grew by 21% in 2007-08, according the report "*Public health expenditure in Australia 2007-08*". In 2007-08, the highest average expenditure per person on public health activities occurred in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Their average expenditure was estimated at \$373 and \$140 per person, respectively, compared with the national average of \$102 per person.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091106.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10952>

Juvenile detention numbers on the rise

The number of young people in juvenile justice detention is increasing, according to a report "*Juvenile justice in Australia 2007-08*". Indigenous young people were over-represented in community-based supervision and detention.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091104.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10853>

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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 the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic. 3121 Tel: 03 9274 3100 Fax: 03 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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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

Closing the gap in Aboriginal Health a step closer

The Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon said Aboriginal communities moved closer to designing and addressing their own health needs with the launch of a new roadmap in Darwin.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws054.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=11>

Births, Australia, 2008

(ABS Cat 3301.0)

Australia's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2008 was 1.97 babies per woman, up from 1.92 babies per woman in 2007 and the highest since 1977 (2.01).

There were 15,000 births registered in Australia during 2008 (5% of all births) where at least one parent identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin on the birth registration statement. In 2008 the TFR for Indigenous women increased to 2.52 babies per woman, from 2.40 babies per woman in 2007.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3301.0?OpenDocument>

Midwives / Nurse Practitioner Amendment

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon has circulated an amendment the Government intends to introduce into the Health Legislation (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill and the Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill. Following requests for clarification, this amendment will simply clarify in legislation that collaborative arrangements with medical practitioners will be required to access the new arrangements.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr201.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=11>

Minister Welcomes Launch of New Urban Indigenous Health Institute

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, has welcomed the establishment of the new Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in Brisbane.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws049.htm>

Minister for Rural and Regional Health Visits Wilpena Pound

The Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, has told South Australian doctors that he's determined to address inequities triggered by a lack of doctors working in the bush.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws056.htm>

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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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BUSH SUPPORT SERVICES (formerly Bush Crisis Line) - 1800 805 391

The Bush Support Services Line is a 24 hour confidential telephone support service for workers, and their families, who work in health related services in remote and isolated situations. 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.bss.crana.org.au>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

DAMNING REPORT ON INDIGENOUS MALE HEALTH: AMA (PM: 10/11/2009)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/709251/614869/13859/0/>

Indigenous baby boys twice as likely to die

A report has found that an Indigenous boy born in the last few years could expect to die nearly 12 years younger than a non-Indigenous boy born in the same period.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/10/2738801.htm>

Report highlights continuing Indigenous health gap

A new annual report says there are still significant life expectancy gaps between Aboriginal people and the rest of the community that are not properly being addressed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/10/2738473.htm>

Hard to give fair health care to rural areas: Rudd

The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, says providing more equitable health care in rural areas is one of the biggest challenges facing governments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200911/s2737241.htm>

HIV rates rising in rural areas

An HIV clinician says rates of the infection are growing in rural and regional Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200911/s2735378.htm>

Rural doctors seek another 18,000 medical workers

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia says 18,000 more medical professionals are needed in regional areas across the country to keep up with a greater demand for health care.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200911/s2730556.htm>

Moree woman named top rural doctor

A doctor from a country town in north-western New South Wales has been named this year's Rural Doctor of the Year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/02/2730462.htm>

Funds boost for western health projects

Plans to build a primary health care centre in Lightning Ridge have received a \$500,000 boost from the Federal Government. The Outback Division of General Practice has been awarded a grant in the latest round of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/30/2728404.htm>

Give non-doctors more responsibility in rural areas: UK health adviser

England's senior allied health officer thinks Australia can improve rural health service by reducing the reliance on doctors.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2728625.htm>

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RDAA NEWS

RDA NSW media release -- Patient safety at risk as Coolah Hospital bypassed

11 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDANSW%20--%20Coolah%20Hospital%20--%2011%20November%202009.pdf

RDA Victoria media release -- Sea Lake threat again shows need for action on Victorian rural hospital crisis

10 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAV%20media%20release%20--%20Sea%20Lake%20Hospital%20--%20November%202009.pdf

RDA NSW media release -- Good hearing from NSW Health Minister over closed birthing unit at Pambula Hospital

8 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDANSW%20--%20Meeting%20with%20Minister%20--%208%20November%202009.pdf

Energetic and respected rural doctor wins coveted ACRRM-RDAA Peter Graham 'Cohuna' Award 2009

1 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACF2B18.pdf

Tireless rural GP and trail-blazer for female doctors named Rural Doctor of the Year 2009

1 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Doctor%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%202009.pdf

Revolutionary GP registrar named Rural Registrar of the Year 2009

1 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Registrar%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%202009.pdf

Innovative rural student named Medical Student of the Year 2009

1 November 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Medical%20Student%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%202009.pdf

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

31 October 2009

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

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ARTICLE IN 'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH'

'Rural student entry into a medical course: a South Australian rural high school perspective'
Ensuring high school students are aware of opportunities to help them study medicine is crucial for the future of the rural medical workforce. This timely paper reminds us of the continuing need to make sure the next generation of doctors is aware of their options.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1223>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Rapid Online Publication

Acceptance of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza vaccination by the Australian public - 4 November 2009

Current issue: 2 November 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Reform of health: revolutionary or evolutionary?

Editorials

Uniform format for disclosure of competing interests in ICMJE journals

Vertebroplasty appears no better than placebo for painful osteoporotic spinal fractures, and has potential to cause harm

Can prior vaccinations against certain infections confer protection against developing melanoma?

Circadian rhythms: keeping pace with developments

Research

Victims of violence among Indigenous mothers living with dependent children

Does point-of-care testing lead to the same or better adherence to medication? A randomised controlled trial: the PoCT in General Practice Trial

What does it cost to establish a practice-nurses-led clinical trial in general practice?

Health Care

Quick diagnosis units: a potentially useful alternative to conventional hospitalization

Outcomes of a cystic fibrosis carrier testing clinic for couples

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

Viewpoint

The decline of clinical contact in medicine

Low drug doses may improve outcomes in chronic disease

Letters

Paediatric treadmill injuries: an increasing problem

Straight to the emergency department: burns in children caused by hair-straightening devices

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

Successful implementation of cardiometabolic monitoring of patients treated with antipsychotics

The widening gap between clinical, teaching and research work

Supplement - Otitis media 2009: an update - contents

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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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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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Lung Health Awareness Month

November is Lung Health Awareness Month and the Rudd Government is encouraging Australians not to take their lungs for granted. World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day, on 18 November, also falls in Lung Awareness Month.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr->

[nr196.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&moth=10](#)

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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@critterionconferences.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 edowling@parks.vic.gov.au

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 (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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Media Release

4 November 2009

Scholarships for medical students from rural areas: applications invited for 2010

Applications are now open for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarships (RAMUS) Scheme, funded by the Australian Government and designed to encourage medical students with a rural background to pursue a medical career in rural, regional or remote Australia.

Successful applicants will receive un-bonded scholarships worth \$10,000 a year while completing a standard medical degree at their chosen university. The RAMUS Scheme is open to medical students from rural and remote areas, with demonstrated financial need being one of the criteria for ranking those who apply.

"The RAMUS Scheme supports a total of 550 ongoing scholarships and up to 120 new scholarship places are available in 2010. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on 18 January 2010," said RAMUS Manager, Susan Magnay.

The RAMUS Scheme's support helps successful applicants overcome financial barriers to study, such as the cost of living away from home or moving away from family support structures. Under its mentorship program, RAMUS scholars are paired with experienced rural medical practitioners.

Since it began in 2000 more than 1,500 RAMUS scholarships have been awarded with more than 870 recipients having already graduated in medicine.

To access an online application form, or find further details about the RAMUS Scheme, prospective applicants should visit the National Rural Health Alliance website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

[Click here to be removed from the mailing list](#)