

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 18 September 2009

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A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIANS

The Alliance has released its response to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's Final Report, 'A healthier future for rural and remote Australians' - available at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/final%20nrha%20response%20to%20nhrc%20final%20report%2017%20sep.pdf>

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RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE ROUNDTABLE

The NRHA attended the Rural Health Workforce Roundtable in Parliament House on Wednesday, 9 September 2009. The meeting discussed the workforce recommendations in the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's Final Report.

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PRIORITY FOR ILLNESS PREVENTION EFFORTS MUST BEGIN IN THE BUSH

The current health promotion debate in Australia must recognise that preventable illnesses and health risk factors are more common in regional and remote areas than in capital cities - and that the gap is widening.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/prevention%20needs%20to%20focus%20on%20rr%20final.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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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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From: Twomey, Chris (Sen B. Brown) <Chris.Twomey@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Senate suicide inquiry

You may be aware that we recently referred an inquiry into suicide to the Senate Community Affairs committee. The terms of reference for this inquiry and the contact details for the committee are available at http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/suicide/index.htm

We are now checking around to see that we make sure we alert and invite people with knowledge and expertise in the issues being addressed in the inquiry to participate.

We are particularly interested in ensuring that those with perspectives and experience on rural mental health and suicide are engaged in the inquiry - could you please pass this on through your networks?

Chris Twomey
Senior Policy Advisor
Australian Greens Senators

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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

The Rural Health Education Foundation will be simultaneously broadcasting and webcasting its second program in their four part type 2 diabetes Guideline series next Tuesday 22nd September.

T2DM Guideline Series: Diabetic Retinopathy, Chronic Kidney Disease
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Tuesday 22nd September

Nationally 8.00pm NSW, ACT, VIC, QLD, TAS; 7.30pm SA & NT; 6pm WA
LIVE simultaneous webcast and satellite broadcast

To participate http://www.rhef.com.au/program-1/?program_id=383

This program looks at two evidence-based guidelines that address co-morbidity in type 2 diabetes:

Guidelines for the Management of Diabetic Retinopathy; and
Evidence based Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease in Type Two Diabetes.

The program includes Professor Stephen Twigg, Endocrinologist, Department of Medicine, University of Sydney; President Australian Diabetes Society; Professor Alan Cass, Director of The George Institute's Renal and Metabolic Division; Professor and Director of the Poche Indigenous Health Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney; and Dr David Guest, GP Goonellabah NSW.

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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

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

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AIHW REPORT

Eye health workers harder to find in regional and remote areas

More than 33% of Australians who have eye problems live in regional areas, but the majority of Australia's eye health workers live and work in major cities, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report, Eye health labour force in Australia, found that in 2006 about 80% of eye health workers lived in major cities.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090910.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10722>

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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: +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax: +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail: melbourne@johnwiley.com.au

August 2009 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Use of chronic disease management plans in rural practice

Original Articles

Approach to treatment of mental illness and substance dependence in remote Indigenous communities: Results of a mixed methods study

Do rural hospitals lag behind urban hospitals in addressing community health needs? An analysis of recent trends in US community hospitals

At work or play: A comparison of private property vehicle crashes with those occurring on public roads in north Queensland

Asthma management in rural New South Wales: Perceptions of health care professionals and people with asthma

Regional differences among employed nurses: A Queensland study

What stresses remote area nurses? Current knowledge and future action

Water conservation in surgery: A comparison of two surgical scrub techniques demonstrating the amount of water saved using a 'taps on/taps off' technique

Short Reports

Community-driven intervention to reduce injury rates in school-age snowboarders

Identifying and addressing barriers to the use of enhanced primary care plans for chronic disease in rural practices

Viewpoint Rural pathology under the microscope

Grazing - Association between jigsaw puzzles and rural health in Australia

Book Reviews

Mastering Bipolar Disorder - An Insider's Guide to Managing Mood Swings and Finding Balance

Gastroenterology and Hepatology: A Clinical Handbook, 1st edition

From the Journal Associates

Rural health: The place to be

Royal College of Nursing, Australia, delivers online training to meet the information technology needs of rural nurses and midwives

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

Indigenous Health Minister Gets Down to Business

Business improvement and corporate governance will be the main topics of discussion during a two-day conference beginning in Sydney for Indigenous health organisations from across NSW. Opening the ACTION for Health conference: Innovations for Business Improvement

2009 today, Federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, said Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations should gain a lot from the conference.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws022.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.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr158.htm>

Riverina Hosts National Health Debate

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon today visited the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital as part of consultation with health professionals and stakeholders on recommendations of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission. The Wagga Wagga Base Hospital has received \$792,951 to purchase new medical equipment under Stage Two of the Federal Government's Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws028.htm>

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. It forms part of a \$58.1 million Federal funding commitment to the Charles Sturt University dental school across Wagga, Orange, Albury, Bathurst and Dubbo.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws027.htm>

CATSIN Conference 'We Can Do It - Yes We Can'

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, congratulated the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) on its 11th national conference in Melbourne. The conference has as its theme 'We can do it - yes we can' and covers important topics such as national registration and accreditation, corporate governance, and self regulation. It will also cover methods of supporting Indigenous students in their health studies.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws023.htm>

A Home for Rural Health Professionals in Katherine

The Centre for Remote Health is setting up a home in Katherine to help attract health professionals to the Northern Territory, thanks to the Rudd Government. Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon. Warren Snowdon joined the house-warming launch in Katherine and said the \$407,000 investment in staff accommodation is in addition to more than \$2 million in Federal Government funding to help run the centre.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws020.htm>

National Indigenous Health Equality Council Meets with Minister Snowdon

The importance of the National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) was reiterated

with the attendance of Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, at their meeting in Canberra. The Council, drawing on its broad expertise, provides the government with evidence-based advice to close the gap in health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws018.htm>

Historic reforms to telecommunications regulation

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy announced fundamental reforms to existing telecommunications regulations in the interests of Australian consumers and businesses. These reforms will address Telstra's high level of integration to promote greater competition and consumer benefits, streamline and simplify the competition regime to provide more certain and quicker outcomes for telecommunications companies, strengthen consumer safeguards to ensure services standards are maintained at a high level, and remove redundant and inefficient regulatory red-tape.

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/088

Help for people with mental illness in remote communities

People living with a mental illness in remote Australia will have access to much-needed support through the extension of the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS) program.

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/help_mental_illness_10sept09.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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POLICY NEWS

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

Recognising and Responding to Hepatitis C in Indigenous Communities in Victoria
Hepatitis C within Indigenous communities continues to challenge policy makers and health care providers. Due to the many competing issues faced by Indigenous communities throughout Australia, hepatitis C is often considered by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians as a low priority. This research began with the question: How to improve access to hepatitis C treatment services for Indigenous people in Victoria. In retrospect this is the wrong question to ask. Focusing on identifying and understanding barriers and challenges associated with accessing treatment makes sense given the recent improvements in treatment success experienced in Australia. However, findings from this study show that there are other important issues relating to hepatitis C for Indigenous communities which must be addressed. http://webstat.latrobe.edu.au/c.latrobe?nm=http://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/assets/download_s/reports/Indigenous_hepatitisC_report.pdf

Mutant messages 2: Victoria's Indigenous family violence plan

This article critiques Victoria's ten year plan, Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong

Families: Towards a Safer Future for Indigenous Families and Communities. On its one year anniversary, the authors evaluate progress made under the State strategy and make concrete suggestions to ensure better protection for victims of family violence.

http://www.ilc.unsw.edu.au/publications/documents/Mutant%20Messages%20_Vic%20IFV_P.pdf

The Indigenous Resiliency Project: a worked example of community-based participatory research

Aboriginal people have been examined, measured and asked questions ... They have been passive subjects rather than participants. Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is often cited as a suitable methodological approach for academic researchers wanting to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities. This paper describes the Indigenous Resiliency Project currently being conducted in Redfern, Townsville and Perth.

http://www.publish.csiro.au/view/journals/dsp_journal_fulltext.cfm?nid=226&f=NB09007

Preventable chronic diseases in Aboriginal populations

The purpose of this paper is to provide background information about chronic diseases in the Aboriginal population in the NT and to stimulate input and comment to assist in the revision of the Preventable Chronic diseases Strategy (PCDS) and implementation plan. The gap of 17 years between the life expectancy of Aboriginal people and all other Australians is well known. The gap for women is narrowing, albeit much too slowly, however the gap for men is not decreasing. There have been significant reductions in deaths from infectious diseases, maternal, peri natal and nutritional conditions and injuries. In contrast, deaths from chronic diseases increased although the rate of increase slowed. Aboriginal people have much higher rates of chronic diseases than other Australians. For Aboriginal people in the NT the most common illnesses are Type 2 diabetes, anxiety and depression, ischaemic heart disease, kidney disease and airways disease. While the social determinants of health have a significant impact on health the evidence shows that much of the burden of disease caused by chronic diseases can be prevented by focusing on the modifiable risk factors - smoking, poor nutrition, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity.

http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/35/42.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Chronic%20Disease%20in%20Abo

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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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EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS, JUN 2006
(ABS Cat 3238.0.55.001)

This product contains final experimental estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous), non-Indigenous and total populations of Australia at 30 June 2006, for various geographies. Estimates are disaggregated by age (5-year age groups) and sex for state

and territory, Remoteness Areas and Indigenous Regions. Estimates for Statistical Local Areas are available for total all ages only.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3238.0.55.001Main+Features1Jun%202006?OpenDocument>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Doctors: medical flights too slow

We've received an explosive letter this week, signed by district medical officers and community doctors, that claims delays in the Territory's aero medical service has contributed to several deaths.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2009/09/15/2686395.htm>

Indigenous pandemic protection 'a long way off'

The Aboriginal Health Council says there is still a long way to go to protect Aboriginal communities in South Australia from pandemic diseases.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/15/2686486.htm>

Bureaucratic delays keep foreign doctors away

Medical recruiters say a 12-month delay in introducing a new accreditation program for overseas doctors has left hundreds of rural communities without a GP.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/15/2686701.htm>

Health funds 'should go to Aboriginal groups'

The Aboriginal Health Council says, while it welcomes funding for mental health services in Narrogin, the money should be controlled by the Indigenous community.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/14/2685288.htm>

Health inquiry hearing 'an eye-opener'

The Labor Member for Albany says a parliamentary hearing into WA's hospitals and community healthcare services was an eye-opener for committee members.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/14/2685320.htm>

Senate to probe rural suicide programs

A Senate inquiry will look at suicide prevention and support programs in rural and regional Australia. The inquiry will also investigate the accuracy of suicide reporting and the efficiency of programs and agencies, like the police and government departments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2683024.htm>

VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA

Violence experienced by health professionals in remote rural regions of Australia is increasing. We look at why this is the case and what needs to be done to rectify the situation.

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/617560/614869/12404/0/>

Country doctor shortage 'to double'

The number of general practitioner (GP) vacancies in country Western Australia is expected

to double over the next 12 months.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/08/2679545.htm>

Surfing the latest diabetes information

Rural health workers will be taking part in new programs run by the Rural Health Education Foundation, to find out about changes to diabetes management. The programs will be broadcast via a webcast from September through to November.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200909/s2675603.htm>

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RDAA NEWS

Rural doctors invite new NSW Health Minister on fact-finding tour of rural hospitals, practices

15 September 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDA%20NSW%20--%20Rural%20doctors%20invite%20new%20NSW%20Health%20Minister%20on%20rural%20fact-finding%20tour%20--%20September%202009.pdf

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Does the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission have a real answer for public hospitals? - 14 September 2009

The NHHRC final report: view from the hospital sector - 14 September 2009

Bigger is not always better: what the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission report means for general practice - 14 September 2009

Current issue: 7 September 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Confronting conflict of interest

Editorials

From medical school to medical practice: a national tracking system to underpin planning for a sustainable medical workforce in Australasia

Child protection and the health professional: mandatory responding is our duty

Translational research and rational therapy: structural barriers in Australia

Research

An expert-supported monitoring system for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in general practice: results of a cluster randomised controlled trial

Is uptake of genetic testing for colorectal cancer influenced by knowledge of insurance implications?

Adequacy of consent documentation in a specialty surgical unit: time for community debate?

Systematic Review

Is reflexology an effective intervention? A systematic review of randomised controlled trials

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - The community's attitude towards swine flu and pandemic influenza

Health Care Reform - Why health reform?

Viewpoint - Winds of change: growing demands for transparency in the relationship between

doctors and the pharmaceutical industry
For Debate - A national approach to perinatal mental health in Australia: exercising caution in the roll-out of a public health initiative
Research Enterprise - A case study evaluation of ethics review systems for multicentre clinical trials
Diagnostic Dilemmas - Acute psychiatric illness in a young woman: an unusual form of encephalitis
Letters
Australia's influenza containment plan and the swine flu epidemic in Victoria
A pandemic problem with public transport
First clinical case of a locally acquired carbapenem-resistant VIM-1 metallo- β -lactamase in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Australia
Melioidosis in south-eastern Queensland
Severe Queensland tick typhus complicated by diabetes in south-eastern Queensland
Glycaemic control in patients with type 1 diabetes after provision of public hospital-funded insulin pumps
Access block: it's all about available beds
Interventions to circumvent intensive care access block: a retrospective 2-year study across metropolitan Melbourne
Access block can be managed
Should the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee extend the range of free nicotine replacement therapies available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
Poor outcomes among gastrostomy-fed patients in the community
Anxiety and depression among long-term survivors of cancer in Australia: results of a population-based survey
Bicycling injuries and mortality in Victoria, 2001-2006
Snapshot - Three synchronous tumours identified by FDG-PET/CT
Corrections
Retirement intentions of general practitioners aged 45-65 years
Improving general practice consultations for older people with asthma: a cluster randomised control trial
Evolution of a house: Darwin's link to Pambula

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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'An investigation of medication information transfer and application in aged care facilities in an Australian rural setting'

Medication error is very common and can be life threatening for frail aged patients transferred within Australia's increasingly complex healthcare system. This rural pilot study identifies some of the issues and also importantly offers solutions that are unique to the rural context.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1090>

'From the bush to the big smoke - development of a hybrid urban community based medical education program in the Northern Territory, Australia'

The rural clinical schools in Australia have led the way to developing alternative models of medical education in small rural communities. These medical educators have used RCS principles to develop a community based medical education program in the medium sized

city of Darwin, in Australia's remote 'Top End'.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1175>

'Australia's pandemic 'Protect' strategy: the tension between prevention and patient management'
Australia has been significantly affected by the H1N1 pandemic. This article argues that rural and remote areas would have been better served by maintaining the containment phase of the response after it was lifted in cities.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1288>

'A very public death: dying of mesothelioma and asbestos-related lung cancer (M/ARLC) in the Latrobe Valley, Victoria, Australia'
A prolonged illness and death from lung cancer poses enough challenges for families and health care providers. The high media profile of asbestos-related cancers put extra stresses on sufferers, those potentially at risk and the larger community. These issues are explored in this case study of an affected region in Australia.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1183>

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September is Prostate Cancer Awareness month and it is a perfect time to remind men with symptoms or a family history of prostate cancer to discuss any concerns they may have with their doctor.

Andrology Australia is funded by the Australian Government and provides information on men's health issues such as prostate problems including prostate cancer, erectile dysfunction, testicular cancer, low testosterone, male infertility and other related issues. It can be reached on: phone: 1300 303 878; Website: <http://www.andrologyaustralia.org>

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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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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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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@critterionconferences.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
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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:
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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
6 September 2009
Priority for illness prevention efforts must begin in the bush

The current health promotion debate in Australia must recognise that preventable illnesses and health risk factors are more common in regional and remote areas than in capital cities - and that the gap is widening.

The National Preventative Health Strategy released this week deals with smoking, overweight and unsafe levels of alcohol consumption. The prevalence of smoking is 20 per cent higher in regional/remote areas than in the major cities, while the prevalence of overweight people is almost 10 per cent higher. The level of physical inactivity is also 15 per cent higher and the

incidence of hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption is 20 per cent above the rate in the major cities.

Given the level and consistency of these health risk factors, it is disappointing that the Strategy does not specifically nominate regional, rural and remote areas as a high priority and propose targeted local preventative health measures.

Judging by the changes in health risk factors between 1995 and 2004-05, there appears to be no way that Australia can become "the healthiest country by 2020" unless priority is given to regional and remote areas.

Whereas rates of smoking in our major cities decreased by more than 15 per cent between 1995 and 2004-05, over the same period the rates in regional/remote areas appear not to have changed. Similarly, in the same period, sedentary levels of physical activity in major cities decreased by 5 per cent, while in regional/remote areas they went up by almost 10 per cent.

The story for hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption is discouraging both in the major cities and in regional/remote areas; but, again, the latter are faring worse. Whereas the rate of harmful drinking increased for females in the major cities by 70 per cent, the increase was 130 per cent for women living in regional/remote areas.

"Regional, rural and remote areas are wonderful places in which to live and work," according to Dr Jenny May, Chair of the Alliance. "But there are different circumstances and patterns of behaviour from the cities. There will be limited benefit from national preventative health strategies if the social, economic, environmental and cultural determinants of rural health are not simultaneously addressed.

"An effective National Preventative Health Strategy will include nationwide initiatives relating to taxation, pricing, advertising and standard health promotion campaigns. But the urgent need and the particular characteristics in rural and remote areas mean that such a strategy will also need to include specially targeted initiatives for those areas," Dr May said.
