

National Rural Health Alliance eforum 19 October 2009

30 Second Survey

The Alliance would appreciate your views on this fortnightly e-forum. Please help us by clicking this link: NRHA e-forum Survey and completing the survey. It will only take 30 seconds.

This survey is anonymous but if you would like to respond send an email to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

Thank you for your help.

In this issue:

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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 MINE MECHANIC TO MEDIC: INDIGENOUS DOCTORS WELCOME THEIR NEW PRESIDENT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors from across the country has welcomed incoming President, Associate Professor Peter O'Mara. The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) is the nation's peak body for Indigenous doctors and medical students. Associate Professor O'Mara is a Wiradjuri man from central New South Wales. He has worked as a general practitioner in an Aboriginal community-controlled health service for nearly ten years. He is also head of the discipline of Indigenous Health at the University of Newcastle, a job he loves. <http://www.aida.org.au/viewrelease.aspx?id=50>

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PARTYLINE

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

More doctors and nurses join an ageing workforce

The number of employed medical practitioners in Australia increased by almost 20% from 56,207 in 2003 to 67,208 in 2007, according to the AIHW report "Medical labour force 2007". Measured by the full time equivalent of medical practitioners per 100,000 people, there was an increase from 279 in 2003 to 305 in 2007.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091016.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10723>

A second report released "Nursing and midwifery labour force 2007" showed the number of nurses increased by over 11% between 2003 and 2007. The number of full time equivalent nurses per 100,000 people increased from 1,017 in 2003 to 1,095 in 2007, this was an 8% increase.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091016.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10724>

Breastfeeding associated with reduced risk of asthma in infancy

Findings from a two-year study on asthma and wheezing illness in one year olds and kindergarten children, show that within the first three years of life, almost 17% of Australian infants experienced asthma or wheezing illness. However breastfeeding within the first 12 months of life may offer a protective effect against asthma or wheezing in infancy, which increases with increasing breastfeeding duration. The report, "Asthma in Australian Children: Findings from Growing up in Australia, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children", also found that among kindergarten-aged children, living in remote areas and having food or other allergies were risk factors for the onset of asthma-like symptoms.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091014.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10771>

Closing the Gap Clearinghouse-work in progress

The goal of the Clearinghouse is to become Australia's most credible and comprehensive knowledge centre of assessed evidence regarding evaluation of interventions, research, cost-effectiveness and the implementation of key studies, to help inform decision-making in relation to Closing the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

http://www.aihw.gov.au/indigenous/closing_the_gap.cfm

Some improvements seen in Indigenous housing but still more to be done

A report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows that although levels of overcrowding and access to essential services, such as power, water and sewerage improved for Indigenous Australian households during the period 2001-2006, homelessness and affordability levels remained about the same, and the overall condition of

dwellings deteriorated.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091008.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10635>

Significant increase in high-need aged care packages

Just over 46,500 Australian Government aged care packages were available as at 30 June 2008, nearly 4,000 more than for the previous year, according to the AIHW report "Aged care packages in the community 2007-08 a statistical overview". Availability of high-care packages is still more limited in remote and very remote areas, however, the first five packages for very remote areas began operating in 2007-08.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091015.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10750>

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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

The overburden report: Contracting for Indigenous health services
In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health organisations play a significant role as providers of essential primary health care (PHC) in rural, remote and urban settings. Australian governments have developed policies and funding programs to support this growing health sector. But the current arrangements for funding are much criticised. Providers complain about fragmented funding programs, with too many reports required. Government staff also experience problems with administering these funds, with high workloads in processing and managing a multitude of programs and grants, and some lack of compliance by providers, particularly with activity reporting requirements. This project aims to expand our understanding of these problems and find better ways of funding and regulating PHC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/downloads/overburden%20report_FINAL.pdf

The role of spirituality in social and emotional wellbeing initiatives: The Family Wellbeing Program at Yarrabah

The relationship between spirituality, religion and health is an emerging area of research worldwide. Although the available evidence generally supports a positive association between religious beliefs, spirituality and health, the reasons underlying this association are not well understood. This paper explores the role that spirituality plays in social and emotional wellbeing for one group of Indigenous Australians by considering the outcomes of the Family Wellbeing (FWB) empowerment program, as reported by participants from Yarrabah, an Indigenous community located in far north Queensland.

http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/downloads/DP7_FINAL.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/infoservice> and further information is available at infoservice@lifeline.org.au and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Rural Health Among Rudd Government's Top Priorities

Improved health care in regional and remote areas of Australia was a top priority in the Rudd Government's program of national health reform, Indigenous, Rural and Regional Health Minister, Warren Snowdon, said while opening the 27th Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA) Conference in Alice Springs.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws043.htm>

Parliamentary Secretary Visits Whyalla Medicos

Doctors in Whyalla will benefit from increased financial incentives from the Australian Government to encourage them to stay in the district, following its reclassification as 'outer regional' from 1 July 2010. As well, doctors who practise in Whyalla may be eligible under the program for retention grants of between \$4,000 after six months to \$18,000 after five years, which is significantly better than the existing system where a doctor would become eligible for a retention grant of \$5,000 per annum after a six-year qualifying period. The Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler, was in Whyalla to consult on the future of the health system and to hear first hand from health professionals on the ground.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-mb-mb028.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=10>

PM and Rural Health Minister Visit Murray Bridge

The people of Murray Bridge will feel the benefit of increased financial incentives to attract doctors and then keep them, as a result of the Rudd Government's Rural Health Workforce Strategy. The Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, and the Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, were in Murray Bridge to hear first hand from local health professionals on the ground. The Prime Minister and Minister Snowdon toured the Bridge Clinic, outlined the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission's recommendations, and listened to local health professionals as they outlined their priorities for the future of the health system.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws042.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=10>

Tasmania's Rural Clinical School

The growing popularity of the University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School at Burnie has been recognised today with the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, officially opening an extension to the school.

<http://www.alp.org.au/media/1009/msheag071.php>

GP Incentives Boosted in Northern Tasmania

GPs in the Ulverstone and Burnie areas will benefit from increased financial incentives from the Rudd Government to encourage them to relocate to and stay in these districts. The incentives will be provided via the Government's General Practice Rural Incentives Program, under which doctors who relocate to Ulverstone and Burnie from a capital city may be eligible for a relocation grant of up to \$30,000. Doctors who relocate to Latrobe and Devonport from a capital city may be eligible for a relocation grant of up to \$15,000.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr174.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=10>

Encouraging Indigenous People into Health Careers

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon was in Brisbane at the Australian Indigenous Doctors

Association's (AIDA) Annual Symposium to launch the new AIDA publication - 'Journeys into Medicine'. Minister Snowdon said improving the capacity of the Indigenous health workforce is a critical component of the Government's commitment to close the gap in Indigenous life expectancy. 'Increasing the number of Indigenous doctors in Australia helps underpin a workforce able to provide sustainable services to Indigenous Australians,' he said. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws035.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=10>

Improving Indigenous housing across Australia

Indigenous Australians will significantly benefit from the Australian Government's single largest investment in social and affordable housing in the country's history. http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/indigenous_housing_8oct09.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 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/>)

Govt 'too slow' on alcohol licence buybacks

The Northern Territory's peak Aboriginal health organisation says the Government is dragging its heels on a plan to buy back takeaway alcohol licences in Alice Springs. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/15/2715203.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. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/15/2715166.htm>

RFDS medical emergency jet takes off

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will today launch its first medical emergency jet, to service regional Western Australia. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/14/2714013.htm> b

Rudd inspects rural medical clinic

Wednesday, 14/10/2009

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is in South Australia today to investigate health service problems in rural and remote Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200910/s2713833.htm>

Indigenous disease prevention hits funding block

"Every Friday we have a funeral, and once that Friday has gone past someone else passes on."

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2009/10/14/2714157.htm>

Doctor gets fourth Deadlies nomination

One of Queensland's leading Indigenous health experts has been nominated for his fourth award for his contributions to the field. Dr Mark Wenitong is a senior medical officer with the Cape York Health Council, and co-founded the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/13/2712361.htm>

Concerns over Indigenous lap band trial

Many health professionals are worried by plans to treat Indigenous obesity, and type 2 diabetes, with lap band surgery.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/13/2712307.htm>

Upgrade for rural health school

The Federal health Minister Nicola Roxon has unveiled a \$1million upgrade of medical teaching facilities in Tasmania's north-west.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/07/2707379.htm>

Utopian ideal for Indigenous health?

Residents of one remote Aboriginal community have found that their connection to country is good for their health.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/thepulse/stories/2009/10/01/2699261.htm>

Walgett surgery named National Practice of the Year

The Walgett Doctors Surgery hopes winning a national award will help it attract more general practitioners to the remote community.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/06/2705674.htm>

Kits to combat Indigenous eye disease

The International Centre for Eyecare Education has launched a new project to combat eye disease in Australia's indigenous communities.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/06/2706102.htm>

New financial incentives for Geraldton doctors

The Federal Government has announced new financial incentives for doctors working in Geraldton.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/05/2705085.htm>

Better housing urged for health workers

The Community and Public Sector Union says better housing needs to be provided for

medical professionals working in regional Western Australia.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/05/2705053.htm>

Governments urged to boost remote health spending

The Rural Doctors Association is calling for Australian governments to spend more on remote health.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/02/2703264.htm>

Rural doctors demand more money

The Rural Doctors Association is calling for Australian governments to spend more on remote health to help lower high death rates in the Northern Territory.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/02/2702905.htm>

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RDA NEWS

Rural doctors "very pleased" with significant hearing from PM

14 October 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Prime%20Minister's%20visit%20to%20Murra%20y%20Bridge%20--%20follow-up%20--%20October%202009.pdf

Rural doctors hope PM's visit to rural general practice "will be one of many"

14 October 2009

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Prime%20Minister's%20visit%20to%20Murra%20y%20Bridge%20--%20October%202009.pdf

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Rapid Online Publications

Uniform format for disclosure of competing interests in ICMJE journals - 14 October 2009

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

September 2009

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

- 21 September 2009

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

More rapid online publications: August - September 2009

Current issue: 5 October 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Academies of health sciences

Editorials

Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemias: time to act

Systemic sclerosis: new hope for an unyielding disease

Reforming Australian health care

Research

Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia: a major cause of mortality in Australia and New Zealand

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

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

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

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

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CRRMHQ THIRD Anniversary Symposium - Looking back, moving forward

Friday 30 October 2009, Urban Hotel, 345 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane
8.30am to 4.00pm. Lunch included

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

- * How do we collaborate with Indigenous Australians to promote social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing?
- * How do we tackle the impact of environmental adversities and build resilience in rural and remote communities?
- * How do we make a difference?

A selection of our speakers include:

Professor Jean Palutikof Director, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Griffith University

Dr Aaron Groves Deputy Director General, Queensland Health

Professor Yvonne Cadet-James Chair of Indigenous Studies, James Cook University

Dr James Butler Leader, Landscapes & Livelihoods Group, Social and Economic Sciences Program, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australian Tropical Forest Institute, James Cook University

Mr Rod Saal Drought Coordinator, AgForce Queensland

Professor Paul Memmott Aboriginal Environments Research Centre, University of Queensland

RSVP by Friday 9 October 2009

Karen or Chintana, Phone: (07) 4032 6700

Email: admin@crrmhq.com.au

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1st Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium, in Canberra, on 2-3 November

<http://anzmh.asn.au/rmha9/>

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Year of the Blood Donor 2009

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

http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/Year_of_the_Blood_Donor_2009

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Elaine Lomas

NACCHO secretariat

0262480644 or Elaine@naccho.org.au

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Care 2009

Sydney, 25-26 November

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

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

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

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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>

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

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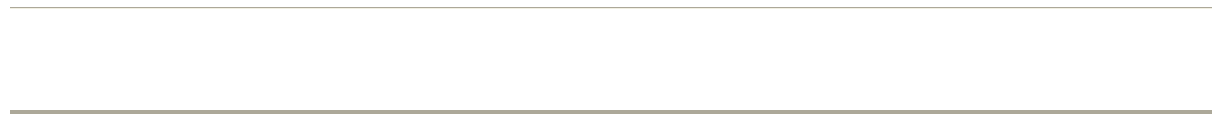
CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

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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