

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 4 September 2009

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August 2009 E-news from the NRHA

Join friends for 2010 and receive a friends' sun hat

Join or renew your friends of the Alliance membership for 2010 before Christmas to receive a friends' sunhat and pin. Membership form is available on the friends page of the Alliance's website <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Rural and Remote Health Papers 1999-2009 CD

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

NRHA policy work

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

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

The Alliance and the Australian Conservation Foundation have developed a joint position paper 'Investing in rural communities and environments through the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme'. The paper has been sent to the Prime Minister and a media release issued on 7 August 2009.

We have also written to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the impact of proposed changes to eligibility for student allowance on rural students.

Positions papers and submissions are available in the 'Publications' section of <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

The Alliance attended the launch by the Prime Minister and Minister for Health of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission's Final Report and we are developing a response to the Commission's recommendations.

Australian Journal of Rural Health

Issue 17(4) of the Australian Journal of Rural Health is now available online and to subscribers in hard copy. Key topics include: chronic disease management plans in rural practice; treating mental illness and substance dependence in remote Indigenous communities; comparison between rural and urban hospitals; asthma management in rural New South Wales; and what stresses remote area nurses.

Access AJRH online at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home>

NRHA Fact Sheets

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

Partyline No 36 - out now

Partyline No 36 is now available online. It includes a wrap-up of the 10th National Rural Health Conference and its 19 priority recommendations, articles on the social determinants of health, on new professions and change management in health, on cancer services, and building trust for Indigenous health. There is an editorial on the scope for improving Australia's health system, and information on arts-in-health, infrastructure, and resources for palliative care and combating depression. The winners of the ALGA Award, the Louis Ariotti Memorial Award and the friends Conference competitions are also featured.

Please let us know if your postal/email address has changed.

We are happy to continue to send you Partyline in hardcopy, but if you would prefer to receive it electronically let us know by email nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

Dates announced for 11th National Rural Health Conference

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

Contribute to the PM's Blog

As part of the national health reform consultation, the Prime Minister is seeking feedback from people in rural and remote Australia on how to reform the health system to ensure it serves all Australians equally.

Contribute to the PM's Blog before 2 September 2009 at

http://www.pm.gov.au/PM_Connect/PMs_Blog

If you miss this deadline you can also contribute to the consultation at

<http://www.yourHealth.gov.au> These are ideal opportunities to raise the priority of rural and remote health issues in Australia.

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

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THE LEADERSHIP IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY AWARDS

The Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery awards is an annual event that recognises inspiring nurses and midwives who have contributed to the profession and benefited the public by improving health service delivery, capacity and/or policy. Are you, or do you know such a leader?

Apply now or nominate someone you know.

Guest dinner speaker, Ms Christine Nixon APM, Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority

Winners to be announced at the awards dinner

A number of prizes including \$20,000 awarded to a nurse or midwife who has contributed to the profession and benefited the public by improving health service delivery, capacity and/or policy

2008 Winners:

The Deakin Health Super Leadership in Nursing Award of \$20,000 - Ms Tricia Bulic

Excellence in Nursing Leadership in an Urban Health Care Environment of \$6000 - Dr Judy Currey

Excellence in Nursing Leadership in a Regional Health Care Environment of \$6000 - Mr Mark Arnold

Excellence in Nursing Leadership in a Rural Health Care Environment of \$6000 - Ms Leanne McCann

Highly Commended Certificate, Dr Julie Considine

For information on award categories and to download and submit an application, visit the web site at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/nursing/awards/index.php>

Applications are now open and close Friday 11 September 2009

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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

Partyline No 36 is now available online. It includes a wrap-up of the 10th National Rural Health Conference and its 19 priority recommendations, articles on the social determinants of health, on new professions and change management in health, on cancer services, and building trust for Indigenous health. There is an editorial on the scope for improving Australia's health system, and information on arts-in-health, infrastructure, and resources for palliative care and combating depression. The winners of the ALGA Award, the Louis Ariotti Memorial Award and the friends Conference competitions are also featured.

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REVIEW OF THE MISUSE OF KAVA AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Despite the multiplicity of factors responsible for the sub-standard health status of Indigenous people, substance use and abuse is one factor that has been identified as having a detrimental impact on poor health. A considerable body of research exists highlighting the deleterious impact of alcohol on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people, but much less attention has been directed to the impact of kava.

<http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/review-of-the-misuse-of-kava-among-indigenous-people/>

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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

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

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AIHW REPORTS

Over 1.5 million women screened through BreastScreen Australia - Indigenous participation rates still lower

In 2005-2006, over a million and a half (1,622,481) Australian women participated in the BreastScreen Australia program, most of whom were in the target age range of 50-69 years, according to the AIHW report "*BreastScreen Australia monitoring report 2005-2006*". Participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women aged 50-69 years is still lower than the national rate, at about 38% of the eligible population, but participation in this group has increased from 35% over the last five years.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090826.cfm>

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10784>

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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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THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN HEALTH

Angela Beaton and Lesley Russell introduce their analysis of the 2009-10 state and territory health budgets

The global financial crisis has been good for health in the sense that it has provoked the state and territory governments to inject capital into health infrastructure. Generally speaking, the marked investment in health infrastructure in all state and territory budgets, which includes the development and upgrade of metropolitan and regional hospitals, emergency departments, and the purchase of various bits of high-tech medical equipment, will help to improve health care services for many Australians. While there is a clear emphasis in all of the state and territory budgets on creating and sustaining jobs, provisions for prevention and indigenous health services seem to be secondary considerations. This is surprising given the increased emphasis on these issues and the national partnerships between the Commonwealth and state governments that are now in place to address them.

<http://www.ahpi.health.usyd.edu.au/publications/2009reports.php>

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Join *friends* of the Alliance now for 2009. People who pay the *friends* fee after 1 September are members for the whole of the following calendar year. *friends* members will also receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' (due out in late 2009), connection with the Alliance's policy work and regular issues of the *Partyline* newsletter. Above all, membership of *friends* gives you the opportunity to support the Alliance and its work. The *friends* Advisory Committee is: Alicia Eaton (Vic), John Ferguson (Qld), Jane Fisher (ACT), Janet Fletcher (NT), Pauline Glover (SA), Nigel Jefford (WA), Marie Lally (SA), Suzanne Little (Qld), Irene Mills (WA), Beth Smith (TAS), Janie Smith (NSW), Janet Struber (NT), David Templeman (ACT), David Thompson (Vic) and Robin Toohey (NSW).

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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

Release of Preventative Health Taskforce Final Report

The final report of the Preventative Health Taskforce was released by the Rudd Government after a visit to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. Preventative health is a priority area for this Government. The Rudd Government \$872 million investment in preventative health through COAG is the biggest of any Australian Government. The Taskforce was commissioned by the Government to investigate and make evidence based recommendations on ways we can improve our health. The Taskforce's three key priority areas of obesity, alcohol and tobacco cost our economy over \$31 billion every year, in areas such as the health system, crime and lost productivity.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr134.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2009&mth=9>

Australian Health Ministers' Conference Joint Communique

Australian Health Ministers met in Canberra to discuss a range of issues affecting the national health system.

Ministers welcomed the final reports of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the Preventative Health Taskforce and the draft National Primary Health Care Strategy.

Ministers noted that pandemic flu was the dominant strain of influenza this winter in Australia and that the vaccine was the best defence against further spread of the virus. Health Ministers agreed to a transitional clause in the current draft National Registration and Accreditation Scheme legislation which provides a two year exemption until June 2012 from holding indemnity insurance for privately practising midwives who are unable to obtain professional indemnity insurance for attending a homebirth.

Health Ministers endorsed the *Fourth National Mental Health Plan: an agenda for collaborative government action in mental health 2009-2014*.

Ministers agreed to publicly release the BreastScreen Australia Evaluation Report and ten individual project reports on 7 September 2009.

Ministers discussed the establishment of Health Workforce Australia. Ministers agreed that the headquarters of Health Workforce Australia will be located in Adelaide.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-dept-dept040909.htm>

Cancer Clinical Trials Extended to Regional Patients this Daffodil Day

Cancer patients in Bendigo, Wodonga, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Hobart will now be able to benefit from new cancer treatments as part of clinical cancer trials.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr132.htm>

Building a 21st Century Primary Health Care System

The Rudd Government released the draft of Australia's first National Primary Health Care Strategy. The Primary Care Strategy focuses on what Government can do to improve the frontline health care that Australians depend on, including the care delivered by GPs and other frontline health professionals like physiotherapists, psychologists and pharmacists.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr138.htm>

Broadband enabling better chronic disease management

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, launched a new e-health project improving chronic disease patient care. "CDM-Net is a great example of the digital revolution taking place in healthcare as the Government establishes Australia's 21st century broadband foundation," Senator Conroy said.

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/084

Improving Indigenous housing in the NT

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments today released the report of the review into improving the delivery of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) in the Northern Territory (NT).

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/sihip_31aug09.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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NATIONALS LEADERSHIP TEAM STATEMENT ON HEALTH

A Minister for Regional Health will devote full attention to regional health matters and have responsibility for the key areas of the Nationals' plan. There will be increased financial support for doctors providing health services in regional and remote communities through increased Medicare rebates and scheduled fees. The Nationals will revoke Labor's change to the rebate for cataract surgery. The Nationals will provide guaranteed service levels for key regional hospitals in such areas as maternity, accident and emergency and public dentistry through a targeted regional health fund, the income from which will provide new regional health infrastructure, and incentives to attract and retain medical professionals to a practice in a regional environment.

<http://www.nationals.org.au/News/LatestNews/tabid/94/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/4143/categoryId/1/Nationals-Leadership-Team-Statement-on-Health.aspx>

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CRCAH News

[\(http://www.crcah.org.au/\)](http://www.crcah.org.au/)

Decision will ensure continued rigorous Aboriginal health research
The announcement by Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry Science and Research that the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH) will be funded for an additional five years has been welcomed by the Aboriginal health research sector.

Indigenous Scholarships to the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference
The Centre for Excellence for Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC) invites applicants for Indigenous Scholarships to attend the *Oceania Tobacco Control Conference - Reducing inequality through tobacco control* to be held in Darwin from 7 - 9 October 2009 along with an Indigenous Tobacco Control preconference workshop on Tuesday 6 October.

CRAH Bulletin - 31 August 2009
A fortnightly bulletin distributed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health through our partners - with information on media, reports, events, funding opportunities and new publications.
<http://www.craah.org.au/communication/downloads/CRAH%20Bulletin%2031%20Aug%202009.pdf>

New Brisbane Centre will lead Aboriginal health success
Queensland's boast of being the smart state and national efforts to close the Indigenous health gap will get a boost this week with the launch of a new centre to support primary health care centres to deliver high quality care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. One21seventy, the National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care emerges from a highly successful research project, the Audit and Best Practice in Chronic Disease (ABCD) project, which provided support to more than 120 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services around the country to use Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) methods.
<http://www.craah.org.au/communication/downloads/One21seventyLaunch.pdf>

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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 WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Rural Health Workforce Australia (RHWA) is seeking to fill a nationally significant leadership role centring on supporting our rural and remote health workforce. This role will work with Rural Workforce Agencies, government and stakeholders and operate from the RHWA office based in Melbourne. The Director will lead a team to provide national management and coordination of all programs and policy to support the rural and remote health workforce. Programs include the new National Rural GP Locum Program and the International Recruitment Strategy which are delivered on the ground through subcontracts

with Rural Workforce Agencies. The Director will also lead our policy development for the technical area of work around rural health workforce and the workplace. The Director will have a background at a senior level in medical recruitment and extensive experience in the primary health care arena. Job descriptions and selection criteria are available at <http://www.rhwa.org.au>. Please send your CV and a short letter addressing the Key Selection Criteria to jobs@rhwa.org.au by 11th September 2009.

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Churchill Fellowship Rural Suicide Prevention Study

In 2008 the *NSW Country Hour* presenter Michael Condon was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to study rural suicide prevention programs in India, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2008/s2543219.htm>

More regional resources sought to fight eating disorders

An eating disorders expert has called for more resources to help treat the condition in regional Western Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/01/2673146.htm>

Depressed Central Australians need to socialise

Depression and suicide rates for men in remote rural areas are continuing to rise. Laurencia Grant, from the Mental Health Association of Central Australia, says living in remote regions means rural men aren't getting the social interactions they need.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200908/s2667477.htm>

Health reform promises to lure young doctors

The Federal Government says part of its health reform is to attract more young doctors and health professionals to regional areas such as the New South Wales north coast.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/25/2666348.htm>

Rudd in Lismore for health talks

The Prime Minister visits Lismore today as part of his national tour to discuss health services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/08/24/2664321.htm>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Rapid Online Publications: *Pandemic (H1N1) 2009*

ASID/TSANZ guidelines: treatment and prevention of H1N1 influenza 09 (human swine influenza) with antiviral agents - Updated 13 August 2009

More pandemic (H1N1) 2009 rapid online publications: June - July 2009

Current issue: 17 August 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Dismembering GPs

Editorials

Critical importance of effective supervision in postgraduate medical education
Asthma in older adults: a holistic, person-centred and problem-oriented approach
Evidence-based uncertainty: recent trial results on prostate-specific antigen testing and prostate cancer mortality

Research

Health and mortality consequences of abdominal obesity: evidence from the AusDiab study
Second opinions in oncology: the experiences of patients attending the Sydney Cancer Centre Health Care

Patient privacy versus protecting the patient and the health system from harm: a case study
"Through a glass, darkly": the clinical and ethical implications of Munchausen syndrome
For Debate - Clinical supervision by consultants in teaching hospitals

Viewpoint

The role of research in the failure of the alcopops excise in Australia: what have we learned?
Screening for prostate cancer: explaining new trial results and their implications to patients
History - The King versus Aleck Bourne

Notable Cases - Imported West Nile virus encephalitis in an Israeli tourist

Letters

Syphilitic periophtic neuritis mimicking papilloedema
Challenging respiratory infections in cystic fibrosis
What can public health surveillance of emergency department presentations for acute alcohol problems tell us about social trends in drinking behaviour?
Water recycling - forwards or backwards for public health?
Making sense of differing bowel cancer screening guidelines

Book Reviews

How to succeed at medical school. An essential guide to learning
Younger onset dementia. A practical guide
Obituary - Richard John Smidlin

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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Reducing the risk of pandemic influenza in Aboriginal communities'
Aboriginal people in Australian have been disproportionately affected by the novel influenza strain H1N109. As anticipated in an article published in this journal earlier in the year, the official approaches to engaging public support for reducing transmission have proved largely irrelevant for Aboriginal communities. This article is a start to documenting the ways in which pandemic strategies must be altered if they are to protect Indigenous and other distinct social groups.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1290>

'Challenges faced in implementation of a telehealth enabled chronic wound care system'
Telehealth aims to provide remote practitioners with another set of eyes - and patients an expert opinion without expensive and time-consuming travel. It sounds so easy. These authors, however, show us there are pitfalls to be wary of when setting up a telehealth service.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1154>

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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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7th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care
6-9 September 2009
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney
<http://www.aaqhc2009.org.au>
aaqhc2009@tourhosts.com.au

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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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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 (RDVA) 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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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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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@criterionconferences.com tel 1300 316 882 fax 1300 918 334 web <http://www.indigenoushealthcare.com/>>

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From: Elisia Dowling
Subject: International *Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress*

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

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

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

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

<http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org>

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

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Healing Our Spirit 2010

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

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health is a proud supporter of and committed participant in the gathering, which will be hosted by native Hawaiian healthcare

organisation Papa Ola Lôkahi (<http://www.papaolalokahi.org>).

Event organisers are now accepting abstracts, presentations and proposals for the sharing of cultural practices and performing arts. These need to be submitted by 8 September 2009 via the link on the home page of the HOSW website (<http://www.hosw.com>).

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.

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

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