

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 6 February 2009

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NRHA E-NEWS JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year

The Alliance would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for a wonderful 2009. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

NRHA Survey: Closing soon

The Alliance is currently conducting a survey to help determine how best to communicate with you in the future. Thank you to those who have already completed it. The survey can be found at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> - it takes 2-3 minutes and your assistance in completing it would be greatly appreciated.

10th Conference: Register Now!

Registrations are open for the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns, 17-20 May 2009. Go to the Conference Website at <http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/?IntContId=38> to view the program and register online or download a hardcopy registration form. Early bird registrations close 20 February 2009.

Discounted Conference registration for *friends* of the Alliance

Financial members of *friends* of the Alliance are eligible to register for the 10th Conference at a discounted rate. The primary aim of *friends* is to support the work of the Alliance and to

facilitate communication among people and organisations interested in health issues in rural and remote Australia. The Conference is also an excellent opportunity for *friends* to network. Join *friends* now to be eligible for the discounted fee. An application form can be found on the *friends* page of <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Key policy work

The Alliance has made a submission to the National Preventative Health Taskforce and is preparing to provide input to the review by the Office of Rural Health of some 65 targeted rural and remote health programs. A submission will also be prepared to the group developing a National Primary Health Care Strategy.

Like many others, we are waiting with keen interest for the Interim Report from the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission.

The Alliance is running another Rural Health Workforce Roundtable in early March, this time in Melbourne, which will focus on those parts of the NHHRC's Interim Report that relate to the rural and remote health workforce.

The report of the Maternity Services Review is likely to bring further developments and announcements in 2009 in this critical area.

Longstanding concern for valid and reliable remoteness classification systems underpinned the NRHA submission to the Department of Health and Ageing made on this matter in December 2008.

Work continues in the Alliance on the sustainability of rural and remote communities and we maintain a strong interest in Healthy Horizons and the prospects for a National Rural Health Plan. The Alliance will also remain involved in work related to mental health, oral and dental health, the impacts of the drought, and potential regional development policy.

friends Photography and Poetry Competition

In conjunction with the 10th National Rural Health Conference, *friends* of the Alliance is holding an amateur photography and poetry competition to highlight life in rural and remote Australia.

friends are invited to enter by submitting entries about rural people at work or play; capturing the unique feel of life in rural/remote Australia; vibrant rural communities; the advantages of living outside a capital city; description of the beauty and reality of life in rural/remote Australia; healthy rural lifestyles; or any rural or remote theme. First prize in each category will be \$500.

Further details are available on the *friends* page at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

friends Unsung Hero Award

There are many people who work tirelessly for their rural or remote communities and contribute greatly on issues about which they are passionate. Rural and remote communities are much richer for their contribution, yet we often don't know who they are. They might be the quiet achiever, the volunteer, or the worker who constantly goes above and beyond their normal role to contribute to their community. The purpose of the *friends* Unsung Hero Award is to recognise these grassroots people who have made a significant contribution to the health of their remote, Indigenous or rural community.

Nominations close 17 April 2009. Further information and the nomination form are available from the *friends* page on <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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WHY CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH MUST FOCUS ON RURAL ISSUES

The National Rural Health Alliance has called for urgent focus on rural and remote issues in the wake of yesterday's announcement by government of \$10 million for research into the human health impacts of climate change.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/climate%20change%2028%20jan.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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10th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 17-20 May 2009, Cairns, Qld

The 10th biennial National Rural Health Conference, to be held at the Cairns Convention Centre from 17-20 May, will seek to identify how people living in rural and remote areas are coping with the threats and opportunities they face.

It will highlight both the serious challenges those people face and their resilience at a time when ecological issues remain serious and when the fiscal and financial environment has changed beyond recognition.

Promoting Cairns as "The Place to Be" the organisers have been under pressure to fit into the program the many threads, topics and research reports which this biennial event brings together. The result is a program rich in content and variety that is now accessible at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

The packed program will feature 18 keynote addresses from leaders in the health sector, as well as researchers and political identities. About 120 of more than 350 papers submitted for consideration will be delivered in concurrent sessions, interspersed with eight lengthier participatory workshops.

Workshop topics include the role of the health sector in mitigating the effects of climate change; setting an Australian rural ethics agenda; and drought, drying and rural mental health.

There will be a strong arts-in-health stream, with the North Queensland organisation Arts Nexus curating events.

The previous two biennial conferences each attracted more than 1,000 delegates and the organisers, led by the NRHA, are expecting similar registration numbers.

"It's good to have the Conference back in Queensland after 18 years away and even better to have it in North Queensland - the first time in the tropics," said Atherton-based

physiotherapist and conference convenor, Owen Allen.

"We'll roll out a warm welcome and then get down to the serious business of making sure that the political change underway in the health sector provides some of the answers we've been looking for in rural and remote areas," Mr Allen said.

Further Contact:

Lyn Eiszele - Conference Manager: (02) 6285 4660

Marshall Wilson - Media: 0419 664 155

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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THE RURAL ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE STUDY (RAHWS): BACKGROUND, RATIONALE AND QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT

The allied health professions form approximately 18% of the health workforce in Australia and are well placed to contribute to future multidisciplinary models of health care. There are many reports describing the health workforce in Australia for the medical and nursing professions but there is very little information available about the nature of the allied health workforce. Recent studies have highlighted the need for more current and detailed information about the rural allied health workforce to inform future workforce planning. National health policy reform requires that new healthcare models take into account future workforce requirements, the distribution and work contexts of existing practitioners, training needs, workforce roles and scope of practice. The absence of accurate data profiling the existing rural allied health workforce makes this impossible. The Rural Allied Health Workforce Study (RAHWS) aims to use a cross-sectional survey instrument with high validity to provide a large scale but detailed profile of the allied health workforce in regional, rural and remote Australia. The RAHWS survey instrument used in this study is the result of a comprehensive consultation with clinicians, academics and managers. The RAHWS survey instrument has been designed to provide uniform data across a wide range of healthcare settings. Good concurrent and face validity have been demonstrated and its design allows for data analysis using a wide range of variables. Cross-correlation of responses can answer a number of research questions in relation to rural recruitment and retention, professional education and service delivery models. This valid and feasible instrument will be used to explore the rural allied health workforce by implementing the RAHWS survey in rural regions on a state-by-state basis in Australia during 2009 and 2010.

Written by Sheila Keane, Tony Smith, Michelle Lincoln, Scott Wagner and SE Lowe

http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=259557

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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

February 2009 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Rural health research

Articles

Health status differentials across rural and remote Australia

Influence of socioeconomic and cultural factors on rural health

Impact of rurality on environmental determinants and hazards

Innovative rural and remote primary health care models: What do we know and what are the research priorities?

Integration and coordination of care

Key considerations in delivering appropriate and accessible health care for rural and remote populations: Discussant overview

Multi-level rural community engagement in health

Multidisciplinary management of complex care

Impact of rurality on health practices and services: Summary paper to the inaugural rural and remote health scientific symposium

Evaluating the outcomes of rural health policy

Rural-urban disparities in health: How does Canada fare and how does Canada compare with Australia?

Grazing - Evidence-based policy versus evidence-based rural health care reality checks

Further information at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

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RCNA AND ARNM MERGER THE START OF A NEW ERA

Royal College of Nursing, *Australia* (RCNA) has announced a welcome former members of the Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives (ARNM) to RCNA. ARNM officially merged with RCNA this week, prompting the creation of a new Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty. The faculty will focus on promotion, development and research of rural nursing and midwifery, creating a variety. The full RCNA statement is at

http://www.rcna.org.au/chapters/rural_faculty

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RHEF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

(From <http://www.rhef.com.au/upcoming-programs/>)

Fri 13 Feb 2009 7.30 pm

607b: Grow Strong

Sun 15 Feb 2009 9.30 pm

606: Keep Safe

Tue 17 Feb 2009 8.00 pm

902: Stay Strong

Tue 17 Feb 2009 8.30 pm

903: Strong and Deadly

Fri 20 Feb 2009 12.30 pm

902: Stay Strong

Fri 20 Feb 2009 1.00 pm

903: Strong and Deadly

Fri 20 Feb 2009 7.30 pm

606: Keep Safe

Sun 22 Feb 2009 9.30 pm

710: Indigenous Mental Health: An Interview with Professor Ernest Hunter

Tue 24 Feb 2009 8.00 pm

904: Guidelines for the Treatment of Adults with Acute Stress Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Fri 27 Feb 2009 12.30 pm

904: Guidelines for the Treatment of Adults with Acute Stress Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Fri 27 Feb 2009 7.30 pm

710: Indigenous Mental Health: An Interview with Professor Ernest Hunter

Tue 10 Mar 2009 8.00 pm

905: Birthing in the Bush

Fri 13 Mar 2009 12.30 pm

905: Birthing in the Bush

Tue 17 Mar 2009 8.00 pm

906: The Health Workforce - An Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Fri 20 Mar 2009 12.30 pm

906: The Health Workforce - An Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Tue 28 Apr 2009 8.00 pm

907: A program on Autism

Fri 1 May 2009 12.30 pm

907: A program on Autism

Tue 9 Jun 2009 8.00 pm
909: Women in General Practice

Fri 12 Jun 2009 12.30 pm
909: Women in General Practice

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Partyline No. 34 is available in hard copy and online - go to <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>, then to Publications, then Partyline. This edition of Partyline, the Newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance, scrutinises the current range of government reviews and workforce initiatives and looks at future investment in rural health in the light of the current economic environment. In this context Justine Caines reflects on the current Maternity Services Review. There is a piece on Aboriginal health based on Pat Anderson's address at last September's Public Symposium. There is a focus on the 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns next year, a beyondblue feature, NRHA news and letters and stories from readers.

If you would like to subscribe to Partyline please email your contact details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au Subscription is free.

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PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES 2009

This report was released on 30 January 2009. It has been produced by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP). The report is available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/2009>

Chapter Headings:

- Part A (Introduction)
- Chapter 1 The approach to performance measurement
- Chapter 2 Recent developments in the Report
- Part B (Early Childhood, Education and Training)
- Chapter 3 Children's services
- Chapter 4 School education
- Chapter 5 Vocational education and training
- Part C (Justice)
- Chapter 6 Police services
- Chapter 7 Court administration
- Chapter 8 Corrective services
- Part D (Emergency Management)
- Chapter 9 Emergency management
- Part E (Health)
- Chapter 10 Public Hospitals
- Chapter 11 Primary and community health
- Chapter 12 Health management issues
- Part F (Community services)

Chapter 13 Aged care services
Chapter 14 Services for people with a disability
Chapter 15 Protection and support services
Part G (Housing)
Chapter 16 Housing

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Join *friends* of the Alliance now for 2009 and get discounted registration for the 10th Conference in Cairns in May. 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). Members of the Committee are soon to elect a Chairperson, who will be a Member of the NRHA Council.

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AIHW REPORTS

Measuring the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Key findings from the 2004-05 NATSIHS were:

- * Over one-quarter (27%) of Indigenous adults reported high or very high levels of psychological distress
- * Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to report high or very high levels of psychological distress as non-Indigenous Australians
- * Almost one in 10 Indigenous Australians had visited a doctor or health professional in the 4 weeks prior to interview due to feelings of psychological distress
- * In relation to life stressors, four in 10 Indigenous adults indicated that they or their family or friends had experienced the death of a family member or close friend in the previous year, 28% reported serious illness or disability and 20% reported alcohol-related problems.

On the other hand:

- * Over half of Indigenous adults reported feeling calm and peaceful (51%) and/or full of life (55%) all or most of the time
- * Nearly three-quarters (71%) reported being happy in the last 4 weeks.

Other data sources also indicated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have poorer social and emotional wellbeing than non-Indigenous Australians:

- * The rate of community mental health service contacts for Indigenous people was more than twice that for non-Indigenous people
- * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were twice as likely to be hospitalised for intentional self-harm as non-Indigenous people.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10685>

State owned and managed Indigenous housing 2007-08

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10678>

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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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NEW GP FIGURES SHOW IMPORTANCE OF WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

New Medicare workforce statistics confirm the importance of recent Government investments in the GP workforce, according to Health Minister Nicola Roxon.

Most worryingly, our GP workforce is rapidly getting older. The proportion of full-time workload equivalent (FWE) GPs aged over 45 increased from 59.6 per cent in 2000-01 to 70.8 per cent in 2007-08.

While the number of FWE GPs increased slightly, there are still fewer GPs available outside cities - with 80 GPs per 100,000 population in rural and remote areas, compared to 90 per 100,000 in urban areas.

The full text of the Minister's statement is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr007.htm>

and the figures are available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/General+Practice+Statistics-1>

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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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NURSE THE NATION: AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST

Catholic hospitals and aged care facilities across Australia have launched an innovative new scheme encouraging nurses and midwives to broaden their professional experience and fund

their travels around the nation. With a website that is part travel guide, part employment agency, Nurse The Nation matches short-term hospital and aged care vacancies with qualified nurses who are backpacking or caravanning, or who want to experience.

<http://www.cha.org.au/site.php?id=1661>

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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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A SHARED VISION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

A shared desire to recruit, educate and retain Indigenous mental health workers for regional and rural communities across NSW saw the signing of a new agreement between Charles Sturt University (CSU) and NSW Health on Tuesday 3 February. At the heart of the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is the Djirruwang Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Program offered through CSU's School of Nursing and Midwifery within the Faculty of Science.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews/Indigenous.cfm?itemID=24C5EB73BCFD9D1D236B00318CF98080&printtemplate=release>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Narrogin crisis centre a 'step forward' for mental health

The Aboriginal Health Council has welcomed the Western Australian Government's plan to establish a men's crisis accommodation centre in Narrogin.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/05/2483239.htm>

NEW WEBSITE TO ATTRACT NURSES TO RURAL AREAS (AM:30/01/2009)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/386780/614869/7383/0/>

DUBBO DOCTORS THREATEN TO WALK (7.30 Report:29/01/2009)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/386780/614869/7385/0/>

BUSH TELEGRAPH: Indigenous mental health

Friday February 6, 11.00am, Radio National

A new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare makes some dire predictions about the mental health of Indigenous Australians.

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/386780/614869/243/0/>

Nursing shortages will cripple rural health care

For well over two decades there have been dire warnings of a looming crisis in the health

care system due to the exponential increase in the ageing population, the burden of chronic disease and significant workforce shortages. In rural areas, we are now seeing the beginnings of catastrophic health workforce shortages that without action will cripple the health care system.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/02/2479976.htm>

Survey reveals worse Maitland doctor shortage

The latest GP workforce survey for the Hunter shows the doctor shortage in the Maitland area is getting much worse.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/01/29/2476924.htm>

Rural health services 'desperate for funding'

The New South Wales Rural Doctors' Association says regional health services desperately need additional funding from the State Government.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/01/2479283.htm>

Proposed men's code aims to end Indigenous violence

Indigenous leaders have proposed a legally binding code of conduct within communities as a way of reducing violence against women and children.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/01/2479319.htm>

Spotlight falls on farmer health

Farmers are being urged to think about their own health as they begin servicing their machinery after this year's harvest.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/01/28/2476325.htm>

INDIGENOUS CARERS (Life Matters: 27/01/2009)

Indigenous carers are under-acknowledged and remain largely ignored by the health and social service sectors, according to Professor Bettina Cass. The University of NSW researcher says that, in particular, a high proportion of young Indigenous women in the Northern Territory are carers.

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/381549/614869/7196/0/>

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RDAА NEWS

Rural doctors welcome latest funding round for rural health infrastructure

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20doctors%20welcome%20latest%20funding%20round%20for%20rural%20health%20infrastructure%20--%20January%202009.pdf

28 January 2009

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

Welcome to the Indiana Rural Health Association

The mission of the Indiana Rural Health Association is to enhance the health and well-being of rural populations in Indiana through leadership, education, ...

<http://www.indstate.edu/~irha/>

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\$12m RURAL HEALTH CONSTRUCTION BOOST

The Rudd Government's new Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program will fund facilities to improve access to essential health infrastructure and equipment for people in rural and remote communities

<http://www.alp.org.au/media/0109/msheag280.php>

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr004.htm>

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AMA NEWS

Mr Rudd - what happened to health?

<http://www.ama.com.au/node/4467>

4 February 2009

A releases 2009-10 budget submission

<http://www.ama.com.au/node/4450>

2 February 2009

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CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON ABORIGINAL SEXUAL HEALTH

ACON has joined forces with the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) to produce a new multi-media campaign encouraging sexually-active Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to use condoms and get sexual health tests on a regular basis. Featuring a tagline of 'Use condoms and enjoy your freedom', the campaign has been funded by NSW Health and was developed jointly by the AH&MRC, ACON and Aboriginal health workers.

<http://www.sxnews.e-p.net.au/news/campaign-to-focus-on-aboriginal-sexual-health-4870.html>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 2 February 2009

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

Editorials

Lipid abnormalities in children: should we be doing more?

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/aye11069_fm.html

Risks of proton-pump inhibitors: what every doctor should know

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/tal10966_fm.html

The quality of medication information in Australia: the need for more clinical expertise and accountability

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/sto11172_fm.html

Health Care

Proton-pump inhibitors and the risk of antibiotic use and hospitalisation for pneumonia

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/rou10521_fm.html

A survey of drug-dose calculation skills of Australian tertiary hospital doctors

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/sim10260_fm.html

Haemopoietic stem cell transplantation for children in Australia and New Zealand, 1998-2006: a report on behalf of the Australasian Bone Marrow Transplant Recipient Registry and the Australian and New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/moo10299_fm.html

Medicine and the Community

Population rates of bone densitometry use in Australia, 2001-2005, by sex and rural versus urban location

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/ewa10511_fm.html

Public Health

Incidence and outcomes of major trauma assaults: a population-based study in Victoria

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/omu10830_fm.html

Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in Fiji: prospective surveillance, 2005-2007

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/ste10653_fm.html

Lifestyle

When does severe childhood obesity become a child protection issue?

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/ale11409_fm.html

Individual rights over public good? The future of anthropometric monitoring of school children in the fight against obesity

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/stu10891_fm.html

The emergence of "lifestyle medicine" as a structured approach for management of chronic disease

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/egg10622_fm.html

Childhood obesity in Australia remains a widespread health concern that warrants population-wide prevention programs

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/gil10817_fm.html

Paradoxical nutritional deficiency in overweight and obesity: the importance of nutrient density

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/mar10613_fm.html

Health Care Reform

On solutions to the shortage of doctors in Australia and New Zealand

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/gor10984_fm.html

Notable Cases

Early detection of malignant pleural mesothelioma through measurement of soluble mesothelin-related protein and positron emission tomography

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/olo10620_fm.html

Letters

Secondary prevention among cardiac patients not referred to cardiac rehabilitation

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-1.html

Invasive management and late clinical outcomes in contemporary Australian management of acute coronary syndromes: observations from the ACACIA registry

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-2.html

Why we need a national registry in interventional cardiology

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-3.html

Very late stent thrombosis after discontinuation of clopidogrel therapy

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-4.html
Decrease in breast cancer incidence following a rapid fall in use of hormone replacement therapy in Australia

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-5.html
The changing face of the Australian population: growth in centenarians

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-6.html
Invasive pneumococcal disease in Western Australia: emergence of serotype 19A

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-7.html
Povidone-iodine (Betadine) solution: a simple protectant in surgical gloves

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-8.html
Influence of television on demand for cosmetic surgery

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-9.html
Treatment of type B insulin resistance with immunoglobulin: novel use of an old therapy

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/letters_020209_fm-10.html
Book Review
Neuromuscular disease A to Z

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/kneebone.html
Living with bipolar disorder

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_03_020209/berk.html

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BITRE INFORMATION PAPER 63 - HOUSEHOLD WEALTH

This information paper presents and explores new statistical information relating to household wealth at a small area scale. The paper also explores the relationship between wealth and income for Australia's cities and regions.

<http://bitre.gov.au/Info.aspx?ResourceId=695>

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From: Shane Barnes
Subject: Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) conference

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) is holding it's forthcoming conference titled "Direction in a time of change" in February 2009
19-20 February 2009
Jasper Hotel, Melbourne, Vic
For further information and to register visit: <http://www.vaada.info/>
If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact me
Shane Barnes
Conference Organiser

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From: Bowcock, Robyn
Subject: New inquiry on remote community stores in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities

The operation of local community stores in remote Indigenous communities is the focus of a

new inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

The Committee invites submissions by Friday, 20 February 2009. Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or emailing atsia.reps@aph.gov.au.

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CHA Rural Health & Aged Care Forum 27th February, Brisbane
CHA will hold a Rural Health Forum in Brisbane on Friday 27th February for CHA members. This information sharing forum will identify common themes in rural service delivery and provide an opportunity for networking amongst CHA members.

<http://www.cha.org.au/>

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The next biennial Australian Health Care Reform Alliance summit is being held Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 2009
Victorian University Convention Centre, Level 12, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

This will be an early and important opportunity consider the interim report from the NHHRC, as well as other matters.

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From: Anthony Watkins
Subject: National Conference on Caring

Carers Queensland are hosting the 2009 National Conference on Caring *Building the Future with Family Carers* on the 9th and 10th of March 2009 at Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast.

The conference will provide the opportunity to come together to exchange and develop knowledge and practice that will enhance carers' health, wellbeing, financial security and choices - now and into the future.

Whether you are employed in carer support; disability, health, mental health, aged or community care services; are a policy maker; a researcher or a carer, you will be able to engage with the subjects of interest to you.

Discounted early bird registration closes on 1 February. A stimulating and challenging program has been developed with speakers and presenters including politicians, policy makers, practitioners and, most importantly, carers.

You can find out more about the Conference on the official website at

<http://www.astmanagement.com.au/Carers9/default.asp>

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NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2009 will be held from 5 to 12 July. Further information at <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

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Catholic Health Australia
2009 National Conference - Hand in Hand
Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, 17 - 19 August 2009
<http://www.cha.org.au/>

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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 view 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

28 January 2009

Why climate change research must focus on rural issues

The National Rural Health Alliance has called for urgent focus on rural and remote issues in the wake of yesterday's announcement by government of \$10 million for research into the human health impacts of climate change.

"Climate change will affect many aspects of life in rural areas, including the economic base, the incidence of disease and the frequency and severity of extreme events," said Alliance Chair, Dr Jenny May.

"People in communities that are already under-serviced will be most vulnerable - and in Australia this means those who live in rural and remote areas. Individuals and families will be exposed to new diseases while facing the stress of major change that will transform the economic and social status of entire communities."

In welcoming additional research funding, Dr May urged consideration of community strategies to reduce risks and manage events. Research will need to cover issues such as:

- * responses to extreme weather events;
- * housing and building standards;
- * the physical structure and operation of resource management systems like reservoirs;
- * a range of policy responses to the likely relocation of food production; and
- * how best to prepare health professionals for new challenges, improve mental health and
- * provide health-related infrastructure.

A recent paper in the *Medical Journal of Australia* by Donna Green, Ursula King and Joe Morrison argued that Aboriginal people will feel the impact of climate change more than others because of their particularly close ties to the land and environment.

The paper reported that temperatures in the tropical north and interior are tipped to rise by three degrees Celsius by 2050, increasing the urgency of the need for improved Aboriginal health and housing. Indigenous Australians generally suffer poorer health than the wider population, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, which makes them particularly vulnerable.

Further evidence of the vulnerability of people in rural areas was provided in a paper by Peng Bi and Kevin Parton in the January 2008 issue of the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. The paper predicted that climate change will trigger extreme events such as heatwaves, droughts, flooding, cyclones and landslides - which will impact on food production by disrupting agricultural cycles.

These altered weather patterns will also bring changes in the distribution of vector-borne diseases, such as Ross River and Barmah Forest viral infections, food-borne diseases and variations in daily mortality and hospitalisation rates, emergency department visits and the use of ambulances services.

Dr May said because rural and remote regions play a critical role in agricultural production, mining, biodiversity, environmental security and heritage protection, government should treat them as national assets that demand protection.

Climate change and its effects on health are priority topics for deliberation at the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns from May 17-20.

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Media Release

27 January 2009

Journal documents rural health research efforts

Climate change and other key factors impacting on rural and remote communities have increased both the need for rural health research and the importance of applying the findings of good research to policies and programs. Some of the latest research results, and the state of the rural research sector itself, are documented in the first issue for 2009 of the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*.

Now available online through publisher Wiley Blackwell on the website

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home> are 12 papers from leaders in rural and remote health research.

Among them is Australian-born public health physician Professor John Beard, recently appointed Director of Ageing and Life Course with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, whose paper reports on the influence of socioeconomic and cultural factors on health in rural areas.

Professor John Wakerman, Director of the Centre for Rural Health in Alice Springs and a former Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance, explores innovative models of rural and remote primary health care and what we know about them. His paper also examines priorities for research.

Other papers published in the 68-page issue include one by Gordon Gregory, Executive Director of the Alliance, which examines the impact of rurality on health practices and services. Like the others, his paper was originally presented at last year's inaugural Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium in Brisbane.

Another topical paper, titled *Key considerations in delivering appropriate and accessible health care for rural and remote populations*, is by Professor John Humphreys from the Monash University School of Rural Health in Bendigo, Victoria.

In its 17th year of publication, the AJRH is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary journal that is available by subscription. This issue is the third in a themed series which has included issues on mental health (2007) and public health (2008).

The on-line version of Volume 17 Number 1 is available through Wiley Interscience.