

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 28 April 2000

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NRHA STATEMENT ON DEMOCRATS HEALTH PROPOSALS

The Alliance released a statement on the Democrats' health proposals on 16 April. The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/16400.htm>

The Democrats' statement is at <http://www.democrats.org.au/media/display.htm?id=509>

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INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND HOUSING

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released an occasional paper on the Mortality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The paper shows that circulatory disease, injury, respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes were the main causes of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in 1995-97.

Death rates were higher for Indigenous people than for the total Australian population in every age group, but the largest differences were among people aged 35-54 years old, with rates in this age group 6-7 times higher for Indigenous people.

Among those who died, 53% of Indigenous males and 41% of Indigenous females were less than 50 years old. By contrast, 13% of all male deaths and 7% of all female deaths in Australia in 1995-97 occurred among people less than 50 years old.

The ABS media release is at <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/ABS%40.nsf/dddcf05472f88677ca2568b5007b8615/83089df98e4e6ee3ca2568c40004a466!OpenDocument>

The National Aboriginal Community Control Health Organisation and the Australian Medical Association announced they would be working more closely together to advance the cause of Aboriginal health. The AMA announcement is available at <http://domino.ama.com.au/DIR0103/MediaRel.nsf/2a81fe381a09008a4a2564a3000f6d05/6e46dbcd88725ac14a2568cf0024583a?OpenDocument>

A further ABS release addressed housing and infrastructure in indigenous communities. The survey showed that many discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experience difficulties with their water supply, sewerage

systems, power supply and the condition of housing. The ABS release on this survey is at <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/ABS%40.nsf/dddcf05472f88677ca2568b5007b8615/84b3a51f0ad5268fca2568ce0001ce78!OpenDocument>

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RURAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP - AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care has agreed to fund a \$37,500 rural and regional health related scholarship on the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

The scholarship provides an opportunity for leaders in the rural and regional health arena to develop the skills, knowledge and networks needed to be effective in regional, national and international arenas.

The Program comprises a part-time course of some 60 days, conducted over two years in various locations within Australia and overseas, followed by ongoing involvement through the graduates' association, the Australian Rural Leadership Network.

The Program, which is run by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, is now seeking applicants for consideration for Course 8 (April 2001 to September 2002). Applications close on 31 July 2000.

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REGIONAL SUMMIT INTERIM REPORT

Regional Australia Summit Steering Committee chairman John Chudleigh has announced the release of the Committee's Interim Report. The report recommends the adoption of a long-term vision for the future development of regional Australia incorporating a ten-year investment strategy to bring regional Australia up to the standards of living, services and opportunities expected by most Australians.

The Committee identified three strategic areas within which there are a total of ten areas for change: Community Empowerment; Economic and Business Development in Regional Communities; and Equity of Services in Regional Communities. A particular priority is 100% geographic mobile phone coverage.

The Interim Report is available at <http://www.dot.gov.au/regional/summit/outcomes/committee/index.htm>

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HEALTH "INSITE" WEB SITE LAUNCHED

Federal Health Minister, Dr Michael Wooldridge, formally launched the "HealthInsite" Web site, which aims ensure Australians have access to high quality health information on the Internet.

Dr Wooldridge said that there is a vast amount of information available on the Internet in the area of health but until now there has been no reliable way for people to determine the quality of information provided or how current it is.

"HealthInsite" provides a single gateway to up to date information on important health topics such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, children's health and related information on health services.

Dr Wooldridge's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au:80/mediarel/yr2000/mw/mw20034.htm>

"HealthInsite" is available at <http://www.healthinsite.gov.au>

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PROPOSED E-HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

The Centre for Online Health at the University of Queensland and the School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications at the University of NSW are proposing the creation of a Co-operative Research Centre in E-Healthcare.

The aim of the Centre would be to develop a flexible model of health care that is proactive, coordinated and evidence-based, rather than accept technology-driven developments.

The Web site of the Centre for Online Health is at <http://www.coh.uq.edu.au/>

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is a forum for the expression of YOUR views. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator, Jim Groves, at grovesc@winshop.com.au.

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.

The e-forum is sent to a mailing list of the Alliance and those have indicated interest

through the subscription box at the NRHA Web site (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>). This issue is going to 710 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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