

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 12 May 2000

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BUDGET RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The National Rural Health Alliance has warmly welcomed the rural health initiatives outlined in the 2000-01 Federal Budget. It particularly welcomed

- ? nearly \$50 million over four years for allied health professionals and nurses to be available through Divisions of General Practice to help build multi-professional health teams in rural and regional areas
- ? be three new University Departments of Rural Health and nine Clinical Schools located in rural and regional areas
- ? the relatively small but significant program to prevent and better manage chronic disease in rural and regional communities.

The NRHA statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/9500.htm>.

All the Government's Budget information is at <http://www.budget.gov.au>. The Health Minister's announcements are at <http://www.health.gov.au/budget2000/index.htm>.

In other Budget reaction

? the AMA described the Budget as "good for rural health but bad for gaps". The AMA statement is at <http://domino.ama.com.au/DIR0103/MediaRel.nsf/2a81fe381a09008a4a2564a3000f6d05/2e37f77871e2ad4c4a2568db000e1ccd?OpenDocument>

? the Federal Opposition's health spokesperson, Jenny Macklin, pointed to an "almighty backflip" by Dr Wooldridge on bonded scholarships. Her statement is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/jmmsrdoc080500.html>. Regional Development spokesperson Martin Ferguson said that the Budget was huge letdown for rural and regional Australia with no new spending on transport and communications infrastructure, education, training or regional development. His statement is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/mfmsbud090500.html>

? the Rural Doctors Association is reported to have rated Budget eight-and-a-half

out of ten, saying that the Government has built on the good work of the Wooldridge Ministry to provide more doctors for rural Australia

? the National Farmer's Federation response was headed "Country Health Initiatives Good, but Infrastructure Misses Out. The NFF statement is available at <http://www.nff.org.au/nr00/060-2000.htm>

? ACOSS expressed disappointment that the Budget has devoted so little new resources to meet pressing social needs in areas such as public education, housing, employment assistance, Indigenous welfare services and the public hospital system. The ACOSS statement is at <http://www.acoss.org.au/media/2000/mr000510.htm>

? Democrats' rural spokesperson Senator John Woodley said that the budget had delivered on medical health initiatives for the bush but failed to boost its economic health.

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From: Michel Burgum mburgum@cucrh.uwa.edu.au
Subject: Supervisor training resources

Can anyone recommend resources including training packages for health practitioners who preceptor/supervise UG students during rural placements?

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From: "Robert Black" <robertblack@ozemail.com.au>
Subject: National Epilepsy Awareness Week Sun 14-Sat 20 May

Just to let you know that 14-20 May is National Epilepsy Awareness Week across Australia.

Epilepsy is the world's most common serious brain disorder (WHO 1996) and directly affects 1 in 50 Australians, as well as their family and friends. Epilepsy seizures are caused by disruption to the normal electrical processes of the brain and can take a wide variety of forms.

While 80% of epilepsy is treatable, usually by medication, it can take some time, trial and error to achieve that. It can involve taking perhaps 4 different medicines each day, often with adverse side-effects, in order to achieve control over seizures. Epilepsy, with its unpredictable seizures, can have a major impact on people's lives. However, most people with epilepsy do their very best to lead normal and fulfilling lives.

One of the biggest problems for people with epilepsy throughout the world is the negative reactions of others. You can find out more about epilepsy on the World Wide Web.

If you would like more information about epilepsy, you can ring the following numbers:

Nationally 02 9856 7085
NSW 02 9856 7090 (Outside Sydney ring 1300 366 162)
Vic 03 9805 9111 (Vic country areas 1800 134 087)
Qld 07 3404 3131
WA 08 9381 1187
SA (and NT) 08 8445 6131 (SA country areas 1800 248 186)
Tas 03 6234 6967 or 6224 9481 (Burnie 03 6431 7848)
ACT 02 6287 4555

Regards
Bob Black
TOPSupportFellow
Canberra representative
National Epilepsy Association of Australia Inc
33 Thesiger Court, Deakin ACT 2600
phone: 02 6282 9702 fax: 02 6281 3488

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From: Beth Harvey <anneb@adca.org.au>
Subject: Drug Policy 2000

I am forwarding to a request for feedback on Drug Policy 2000. It is "A new Agenda for Harm Reduction" and is intended to be a comprehensive policy document for ADCA and the alcohol and other drug field. The latest draft of this document is available on line at the ADCA website (<http://www.adca.org.au/>). We welcome all comments or suggestions that would make this document as succinct and relevant as possible.

Join us for a web forum on Drug Policy 2000 at 11.a.m. 16 May 2000 AEST at http://www.delphi.com/alcohol_drugs/start/

Thank you,
Beth Harvey

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HCRA WEB PAGE

A Web page for Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia has been created at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/hcra/index.html>

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From: Trevor Ludeman <ludeman@mail.optusnet.com.au>
Subject: Regional conference on the future of Australian Country towns

A major conference to be held in Bendigo on June 28-30 on the Future of Australia's Country towns. The address is www.bendigo.latrobe.edu.au/campserv/csrc/. It is being organised by Latrobe University (Centre for Sustainable Communities) and the Research Planning and Design Group.

The conference will cover a range of topics on a scale ranging from local to international, which will be particularly useful for community leaders, researchers, policy makers, planners and those who see their future working in and with Country Towns. The issue of creating sustainable Country Towns is of concern to a wide range of people. Our goal is to be inclusive rather than exclusive

Major speakers include:

- Dr Peter Ellyard - Futurist & former Commissioner for the Future
- Mr Hugh Makay - social commentator and researcher
- Mr Chris Sidoti - Human Rights Commissioner
- Ms Sharman Stone MHR - Assisting the Minister for the Environment
- Ms Sue Middleton - State Co-ordinator WA Community Builders Initiative
- Dr Sue Kilpatrick - Associate Director for Research and Learning in Regional Australia, University of Tasmania
- Associate Professor Margaret Alton - Director Centre for Rural Social Research, Charles Sturt University
- Mr Neil Inall - rural commentator and media consultant
- Professor John Keller - Kansas State University, USA
- Associate Professor Tom Lyons - University of Louisville, USA
- Professor Graeme Hugo - Professor of Geography - University of Adelaide and Director, Key National Centre of Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems.
- Professor Terry Delacy - Director CRC Eco-Tourism, University of Queensland

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RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Royal College of Nursing Australia currently administers scholarships for remote and rural nurses funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. These scholarships are available to all rural and remote nurses registered in Australia. Applicants can request varying amounts of funding to support professional development activities including: individual experiential placements; post registration education; distance education and conference registration.

Applications for these scholarships close on the 31st May 2000. Funding is only available for programs of study attended after 30 June 2000. Application forms are available from RCNA National Office, ph: 02 6282 5633, fax: 02 6282 3565, or <http://www.rcna.org.au>.

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6th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 6th National Rural Health Conference is to be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, on 4-7 March 2001. The initial announcement and call for papers is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/index.htm>.

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

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