

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 9 June 2000

In this issue

- * NRHA statement on John Flynn Scholarship Scheme
- * Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme
- * Reports on Indigenous Health
- * NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarships
- * State conference of the Palliative Care Association of Queensland
- * Pharmacy E-Newsletter
- * NFF pledge to work with country doctors
- * Rural Health Needs Results not more Promises - ALP
- * 6th National Rural Health Conference
- * Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

+++++

NRHA STATEMENT ON JOHN FLYNN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The National Rural Health Alliance has issued a statement seeking expressions of interest from community organisations and health teams interested in hosting a medical student for two weeks a year as part of the John Flynn Scholarship Scheme (JFSS).

The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/8600.htm>. Guidelines and the Application Form for the John Flynn Scholarship Scheme is available at the NRHA website (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> - see under "scholarships").

+++++

RURAL AUSTRALIA MEDICAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (RAMUS) SCHEME

Guidelines and the Application Form for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme have also been posted to the Alliance website (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>). They are also available under "scholarships". Applications close on June 19.

The announcement by the Minister for Health, Dr Wooldridge, is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2000/mw/mw20043a.htm>

+++++

REPORTS ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH

After more than two years of investigation, a federal parliamentary committee has handed down a unanimous report on how to improve the health of indigenous people.

The 35 recommendations include the establishment of an independent Council for Indigenous Health, investigating the cost of providing clean water to indigenous communities, and a national system for training Aboriginal health workers. It also

recommends the Federal Government take major responsibility for the health care of Aboriginal Australians.

Committee chair, Liberal backbencher Barry Wakelin, says international experience shows it is possible to improve indigenous health outcomes.

The ABC report on the report is at http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/health/2000/06/item20000605150509_1.htm. The full report is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca/indhea/inqinde2.htm>

Meanwhile, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has released a report on Hospital Statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This report showed that, despite under-identification of Indigenous patients in hospital records, there were almost twice as many hospital separations among Indigenous people in 1997-98 as would have been expected if the Indigenous population had experienced the same hospital separation rates as the Australian population as a whole. The report is available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/ABS%40.nsf/1020492cfd63696ca2568a1002477b5/2c93f37e358172c9ca2568f400816c6d!OpenDocument>

+++++

From: Maureen THOMAS <MTHOS@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarships

The NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarships and Grants are about to be advertised for the third year. The application forms and guidelines are available from the Department's website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/professionals/allied_health/index.html

Advertisements will appear in a number of newspapers about 3 June 2000, and fliers and emails will be distributed to NSW universities. My appreciation in your passing this information on the group. I am pleased to field any queries, comments etc , regards, Maureen

Maureen Thomas
Manager, Workforce Planning Unit
Statewide Services Development Branch
Tel (02) 9391 9380; Fax (02) 9391 9019

+++++

From: "Annette Corrigan" <acorrigan@pallcare.org.au>
Subject: State Conference of the Palliative Care Association of Queensland

The first state conference of the Palliative Care Association of Queensland, "Crossing the Great Divide", 4-6 August, 2000, to be held at:

Southbank Hotel and Convention Centre
Townsville
Far North Queensland.

How can we build bridges that will help us provide quality care to our patients?
As well as debating the issues, participants will take home practical skills to support their work.

\$160 full registration; \$125 PCAQ members and concessions.

For further details visit the the PCAQ website: <http://www.pallcare.org.au/qld>

or phone the PCAQ office on (07) 3832 3522.

+++++

PHARMACY E-NEWSLETTER

Computachem E-Newsletter is the first electronic newsletter to be produced for pharmacy. Edited by Neil Johnston, a pharmacist from northern New South Wales, it is designed to inform on a range of issues affecting Australian Pharmacy, with topics to include the structural challenges facing pharmacists, useful information about management and marketing, and of course, the coming to terms with e-commerce. Contact neilj@computachem.com.au to subscribe.

+++++

From: "David Marcus" <david.marcus@u030.aone.net.au>
Subject: HIC Workshop on Consumer Information needs

I am conducting a project on the information needs of consumers for the HIC. The project title is "Reviewing the Information needs of consumers and how the HIC might meet those needs". If anyone is interested in more information, pls contact me.

David Marcus
Origin Consulting
GPO Box 1337
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone:+ 61 2 6257 8930
Fax: 61 2 6257 8830
Mobile: 0418 11 00 57

+++++

NFF PLEDGE TO WORK WITH COUNTRY DOCTORS

The National Farmers' Federation has renewed its commitment to develop a stronger relationship with the country's medical profession in the campaign to obtain equity in health services for country Australia, and in repairing the environment. NFF President, Ian Donges told the AMA National Convention that despite the gains to

health services flowing into rural and regional Australia from the budget, there were still a number of outstanding issues.

"The shortage of allied health professionals; the lack of transport infrastructure; professional isolation; and access to mental health professionals, are still in need of urgent attention," Mr Donges said.

The NFF statement is available at <http://www.nff.org.au/nr00/073-2000.htm>

+++++

RURAL HEALTH NEEDS RESULTS NOT MORE PROMISES - ALP

ALP Health spokesperson, Jenny Macklin, has been critical of delays in implementing some of the Government's rural health initiatives. Her statement particularly refers to medical scholarships and rural health centres. Her statement is available at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/jmmsrhc260500.html>

+++++

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>.

+++++

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

To subscribe, send a message saying "subscribe NRHA eforum" to grovesc@winshop.com.au. To unsubscribe, send a message saying "unsubscribe NRHA eforum" to grovesc@winshop.com.au