

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 15 September 2000

In this issue

- * CRANA Conference
- * NSW Telehealth Initiative Symposium
- * Veterans Home Care - Invitation for industry comment
- * KidSafe website
- * Sustainability Forum
- * 6th National Rural Health Conference
- * Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

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CRANA CONFERENCE

Bruce McKay, CRANA’s newly elected President, who normally lives and works on Darnley Island in the Torres Strait said “once again a conference that heard the issues debated in an open and honest forum by those at the coalface of remote health issues. There is no doubt that the health of Australians in remote regions can only be dealt with under a Primary Health Care umbrella in a multi-disciplinary framework”

Nine important recommendations and resolutions have arisen out of the final day of deliberation by the CRANA members attending. The CRANA statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/crana8900.htm>

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NSW TELEHEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Date: Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd November 2000
 Venue: Stamford Sydney Airport Hotel, Mascot (formerly Sheraton Sydney Airport Hotel)
 Cost: \$400 (GST included) per person NSW public health system; \$800 (GST included) per person non NSW public health system
 Registration: To register your interest and receive a copy of the program contact the Conference Co-ordinator: Telephone 02 93919857, or Email jhanv@doh.health.nsw.gov.au , or visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au> (select 'Events & Conferences' button)

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From: "Albers, Tim" <Tim.Albers@dva.gov.au>
 Subject: Veterans Home Care - Invitation for industry comment

Invitation to Comment

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is introducing a new Veterans' Home Care Program (VHC), beginning in January 2001. When the VHC is implemented, eligible members of the veteran community may elect to receive home care services from the VHC.

Comments are sought in particular from the community services sector, on two discussion papers addressing service provision, assessment and coordination aspects of the new

program. This will assist with consideration of key issues before the finalisation of specifications for the VHC and the issuing of Requests for Tender. The discussion papers will be accessible from 13 September 2000 via the Department's website at <http://www.dva.gov.au/business/tenders/tender.htm>

Please note that closing date for comments is 29 Sept 2000.

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From: Ron Smith <greenweb@greenweb.com.au>
Subject: Kidsafe new web site

We have put up the new Kidsafe Child Accident Prevention Foundation site at <http://www.kidsafe.com.au> and some new information on safety in home design at <http://www.archicentre.com.au>

We are now using flash and real audio to make the sites more interactive.

Kind Regards
Ron Smith

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From: Dr Alistair Brown <aaquatic@bigpond.net.au>
Subject: Sustainability e-forum

An invitation is extended to any NRHA member who wishes to contribute to an email forum that has been set up to provide a nexus between different groups with a theoretical or practical interest in one or more of the many facets of the sustainable society.

No matter what our narrow interest might be, we are all aware that a remarkable transformation in society is taking place. The professionals who work with belief systems and worldviews are telling us that this transformation is qualitatively different from anything that has ever occurred before in human history. Previous models of how the world operates have been profoundly reductionist and mechanistic. The rapidly emerging worldview rejects reductionist approaches, considering them responsible for much of the global dysfunction, and seeks the reconstruction of a holistic integral view of complex system function. There is therefore no facet of society that can be left untouched by this transformation.

It is apparent that we cannot adequately understand and respond to this change from within narrow disciplines, structures and institutions. However, the NRHA already represents a coalition of similarly minded people from a number of related institutions directly concerned with the health of rural society, and thus has a rather broad view. It is to be expected that NRHA members largely share an understanding of the unifying power of the health concept,

and that they recognise the inevitable interdependency between economic, environmental and societal health. Indeed, the Healthy Horizons web page contains the message that " It is becoming better understood that the health of the population, the welfare of communities, the viability of the economy and the biological resilience of the environment are all interdependent."

Anyone interested in contributing to or sharing this developing understanding is welcome to join the email forum at <http://www.egroups.com/invite/holarchicalsustainability>

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REMOTE CONTROLLED DISPENSING TECHNOLOGY

(Reprinted from Computachem Newsletter #12, September 2000. To subscribe, send a single word e-mail "Subscribe" to neilj@computachem.com.au.

The take up of the concept of "remote controlled dispensing" technology (RCD) has been slow to get off the ground in Australia. Imagine a patient seeing a doctor from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, some 600 Kms from a pharmacy but being able to obtain their dispensed medication on the same day with patient counselling.

This equipment is on the market in America and there is no reason why it should not at least be being trialled in Australia.

The outcome is what every health planner should want.

The lack of action can only be because the companies marketing the machine have not the foresight to see the potential for success in the Australian scene.

There are close to 500 health clinics in "remote" Australia servicing a population of upwards to half a million people. Their health is continually under scrutiny and is made worse by the tyranny of distance.

Come on America be fair share it around we have people in remote places too.

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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 is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/index.htm>.

Please remember also that the Conference will, next year, for the first time incorporate the Infront-Outback Rural and Remote Health Scientific Conference.

The best email contact for the 6th Conference is conference@ruralhealth.org.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 752 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.