

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 29 September 2000

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NRHA REPORT TO HEALTH MINISTERS' RURAL POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

The report provided by the National Rural Health Alliance to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council National Rural Health Policy Sub-Committee meeting in Darwin, September 2000 has been posted to the NRHA website. The report provides an update on the 6th National Rural Health Conference, administration of the National Scholarships Schemes, the Rural and Remote Health Financing Project, the implementation of "Healthy Horizons", the Australian Journal of Rural Health, and administration of the Alliance. The report is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/ahmacreport.htm>

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RFDS - FREE DONATION SITE

(The following is reprinted from the FarmLink mailing list of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries - available at <http://farmlink.dpi.qld.gov.au>)

The Royal Flying Doctor has entered the New Millennium with a Fresh Fund raising system on the Internet; a Free Donation Concept launched this month.

The first of its kind in Australia; the site, which has been implemented by All Farmers Rural, gives the public the opportunity to make a Daily Donation to the RDFS for Free. The way in which this concept operates is by participating sponsors having their banners on the Donation Page. Each time a member of the public views this page each Sponsor pays an agreed amount to the RFDS. If that same viewer then wants to increase the donation the Sponsor is to make, they can then click on the Sponsor or Sponsors of their Choice and this shows them what the sponsor has to offer on their own Website. This also raises the amount Donated to the RFDS by the Sponsor 5 times the amount of the original page view.

The Public Affairs Manager of the QLD Division of the Royal Flying Doctor Service - Stephen Penberthy said this week "The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia (Qld division) is delighted with a recent proposal put forward by All Farmers Rural to assist in raising funds by way of the FREE DONATION SITE. This concept is new to Australia, however we believe it is very successful in America. We are very Grateful to All Farmers Rural for considering the Royal Flying Doctor Service as recipients of this exciting new venture."

Everyone is invited to come and visit our sponsors and at the same time give the RFDS a FREE DONATION. You can visit the site by going to <http://www.allfarmersrural.com.au>

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ONLINE HEALTHCARE FOR DOCTORLESS TOWNS

(Reprinted from the Australian Internet Stock Report, 18 September 2000,
<http://www.internetstockreport.com.au>)

Morel Ventures' No 8 Ventures fund has invested NZ\$2 million into Doctor Global, an online healthcare service based in New Plymouth in New Zealand's North Island.

The early expansion stage company, which delivers its services and products through the Internet, also has a program for remote towns without a doctor, said Peter Allport, director of Morel Ventures Ltd.

The company offers remote monitoring of chronic conditions such as diabetes and asthma, an online diagnosis service in which a doctor replies within 48 hours, and has pilot schemes for corporates, including one with QBE Insurance looking at pre-employment medicals and accident work.

It also has an innovative "adopt a town" program in which it adopts a New Zealand town that does not have a have doctor. The program may also be applicable to Australia, as Doctor Global is initially targeting the Australasian region.

The company is also looking to offer face-to face medicine through a Doctor Global franchise that can refer the patient to the nearest doctor.

The web site is at www.doctorglobal.co.nz.

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PRIVACY CONCERNS OVER E-HEALTH NETWORK RISE

(Reprinted from "The Update", 25 September 2000, contact
acreed@netspace.net.au for subscriptions)

There have been a number of calls for a slow-down in the implementation of an Australia-wide electronic health network as consumer groups and privacy advocates raise serious concerns over the security and uses made of patients' medical information.

Driven by Australia's Department of Health, the network is scheduled to be up and running by the middle of 2001, the Federal Government has said.

The initiative is part of Australia's drive to bring government services, like taxes, registrations and other citizen-government interactions, online over the next few years.

But concerns have been aired, including by the New South Wales privacy commissioner last week.

There are worries people's medical information could be altered if the system is not properly secured, or that the private information could be used for other purposes.

In an ABC Radio report, Privacy Commissioner Chris Puplick called for more guarantees about privacy and security before the system even begins operating.

"I'm concerned that there has to be appropriate legislation to ensure that this isn't linked with social security payments or with taxation arrangements or as a means of controlling health costs or linked to the law enforcement people who might be involved in investigating complaints about over charging by doctors, things of that nature," he told the ABC.

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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 757 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.