

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 13 October 2000

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PRESS RELEASE FROM CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

Central Australian Division moves to Primary Health Care

Breaking new ground for Divisions of General Practice nationally, the Central Australian Division of General Practice in Alice Springs voted in a range of constitutional changes at a special general meeting on Friday 29 September associated with a Division of Primary Health Care.

At the same meeting attended by nineteen General Practitioners and a number of allied health professionals, the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia were accepted as a member organisation with representation on the Governing Committee. CRANA joins the Central Australian and Barkly Aboriginal Health Worker Association and consumers on the Governing Committee of the Division. "Expressions of interest have also been received from other allied health organisations" said Dr Wake, Chair of the Division. "However, any further expansion of the Division would need to acknowledge that the Division will continue to have a role implementing specific program funding to GPs."

"Central Australia has always had a vision of a multi-disciplinary Division and the first proposal for Division in Central Australia was along these lines" said the Chair of the Division, Dr Chris Wake. "We now believe we can address a number of issues faced by health professionals working in the Centre such as professional isolation and concerns about deskilling. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care has provided additional funding of \$202,000 to the Division to assist in developing multi-disciplinary training for health professionals. A key factor in moving to multidisciplinary Division, will be the increased capacity to apply for additional funds to support the other health professions that provide an essential infrastructure for health care in Central Australia.

In support of the proposal, the chair of the Division, Dr Chris Wake, "we need to recognise that without multidisciplinary teams in health care we cannot change health outcomes". Clearly the professional knowledge base influences the role that an individual can play but none of the individual groups can succeed on their own to affect health outcomes.

Contacts: Dr Chris Wake (Chair) 8951 8976 or 0411 755 329  
Vicki Taylor (Executive Officer) 8950 4806 or 0407 977633

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From: Sabina Knight <sabina.knight@flinders.edu.au>  
Subject: CARPA Conference

The 34th CARPA - Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association Conference is to be held in Alice Springs on November 17-18. It is a wonderful opportunity for professional development and to network / collaborate across professions, services and boarders.

The theme is Chronic Disease - Continuity of Care & Coordination of Services. Your experience, interest and participation is most welcome. The weekend is to be held in association with the NTRHWA family support weekend and free child care is available, but it is essential to book.

See you there.  
Sabina Knight  
Convener.

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From: Sue Gray <hawa@iinet.net.au>  
Subject: Rural Health Service Update Seminar

The Healthcare Association of WA's Rural Health Service Update seminar is being held in Pemberton, Western Australia on Friday 10 November.

The Annual HR Conference is being organised by the Healthcare Association of Western Australia (HAWA) in partnership with the Government Health Industry (GHI). Details are:-  
Thursday & Friday, 16th and 17th of November 2000  
at Underwater World Conference Centre (20 minutes north of Perth)  
Hillarys Boat Harbour  
91 Southside Drive  
Hillarys

The HR Conference website address is <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrconference>

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"BESLEY" INQUIRY INTO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

(Comment by Jim Groves)

The Commonwealth Government has released the report of the "Besley" inquiry into the adequacy of telecommunications services. This inquiry always had an air of unreality about it, as it was based on the assumption that the current adequacy of telecommunications services is somehow relevant to the question of Telstra privatisation. In fact, the relevant issue to privatisation is whether privatisation will contribute to, or detract from, the adequacy of services - yet this fundamental issue was beyond the inquiry's terms of reference.

The inquiry failed to define "adequacy" of telecommunications services. In the absence of a definition, it concluded what to most people would be the bleeding obvious - that for most Australians, services can be considered satisfactory, but for a significant proportion of rural and remote residents services are not currently adequate.

The Government chose to interpret this non-conclusion as indicating that it could not now proceed with further privatisation of Telstra. Instead, the Government is intending to produce a plan of action to improve the adequacy of telecommunications services, at an unspecified time in the future, with further privatisation on hold until after that plan of action is published - published, not implemented. We can expect to hear a lot more of this issue, undoubtedly accompanied by a large spending program announced just before the next Federal election.

The report is available at [http://www.telinquiry.gov.au/final\\_report.html](http://www.telinquiry.gov.au/final_report.html). Senator Alston's response is available at [http://www.dcita.gov.au/nsapi-graphics/?Mival=dca\\_dispdoc&ID=5322&template=Newsroom](http://www.dcita.gov.au/nsapi-graphics/?Mival=dca_dispdoc&ID=5322&template=Newsroom)

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From: Mary Bagatella <maryb@nswcc.org.au>  
Subject: NSW Cancer Council INVITATION TO ATTEND RADIATION THERAPY SUMMIT

This conference has been carefully planned to influence and implement change for access to and provision of radiotherapy in NSW. It will examine the status of radiation therapy in NSW and identify barriers to, and opportunities for enhancing impact, with a focus on reaching agreement by key players for necessary change. The target audience comprises key state and federal government policy and decision makers, radiation oncologists and other health professionals, and consumers.

Radiation Therapy, 2000 and Beyond, will furnish an ongoing policy and advocacy agenda for the NSW Cancer Council and all those people committed to the best outcomes in cancer. We hope that you will agree to become an integral part of this exciting process and look forward to your response to this invitation.

Summit outline:

Wednesday 8 November, to Friday 10 November

Dockside Convention Centre, Cockle Bay Wharf at Darling Harbour

Registration form and other information available on our website: <http://www.nswcc.org.au>

Pre-conference workshop on Wednesday 8 November, 3-5pm at the NSW Cancer Council. This workshop aims to give an overview of how and why radiation is used in cancer therapy, and to explore the personal dimensions of its use. The workshop will be organised so as to allow an interchange of ideas and views from both the perspective of the health professional and from a personal perspective. There will also be a significant period of general discussion.

If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joanna Jarrald  
Conference Organiser  
Cancer Control Network  
NSW Cancer Council  
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From: Kim Johnstone <[Kim@whv.org.au](mailto:Kim@whv.org.au)>

Subject: FW: Women's Health & Well-being: National Database of Feminist Research

Women's Health Victoria (WHV) provides an accessible, active, quality health information service for women and the health sector and advocates on women's health issues and policy in a way that will maximise health outcomes for women.

A key component of WHV's work is a clearinghouse for women's health information. We have one of Australia's best specialist women's health libraries, containing over 10,000 records and providing access to national and international data bases. To augment our clearinghouse role, WHV has re-established Women, Health and Well-being: National Database of Feminist Research.

The database will focus on women, health and well-being, in order to:

- ? Facilitate researchers to make contact with other like-minded researchers (including students)
- ? Provide a forum which enables those developing programs/projects to find out about similar work already underway or completed
- ? Disseminate information on research and projects in progress
- ? Disseminate more widely the results of research and project work

The database is for research which fits within a broad, social model of health. The database includes research which uses more traditional methods, and also demonstration projects, forum proceedings, and similar work. We would therefore like to include research being carried out by a broad range of individuals and organisations, such as academic institutions, women's health services, community health centres, other health organisations, community

organisations (e.g. housing), research institutes, Government departments (state and federal), and individuals.

Inquiries should be directed to Kim Johnstone. We look forward to hearing about your research.

Kim Johnstone  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 760 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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