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NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR NRHA

The NRHA today announced its new leadership team led by Dr Nigel Stewart, a paediatrician from Port Augusta in South Australia. Deputy Chairperson is John Lawrence, CEO of Kilmany Family Care based in Bairnsdale, Victoria. Treasurer is Mark Dunn, Australia's southernmost community pharmacist; Mark's pharmacy is at Dover in Tasmania. Shelagh Lowe, a physiotherapist from St Mary's in Tasmania, is the new Secretary of the NRHA. The new Executive of the Alliance also includes Steve Clark, a co-opted individual to Council; Jane Greacen, Louise Lawler and Megan McNicholl; and Nola Maxfield and Sabina Knight.

The full text of the NRHA statement is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/121100.htm>, and is reprinted below.

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FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

The Federal Government has committed \$38 million over four years to provide people living in rural and remote Australia enhanced access to primary health care services, Federal Minister for Health, Dr Michael Wooldridge, has announced,

Country Australians will now benefit from the extension of the full Medicare rebate to GP services provided by Other Medical Practitioners - often referred to as 'OMPs'. Other Medical Practitioners are doctors whose qualifications do not recognise them as specialist GPs. Currently, OMPs attract a lower Medicare rebate for GP consultations which means greater out-of-pocket expenses for rural patients.

Dr Wooldridge's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2000/mw/mw20097.htm>

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FEDERAL SUPORT FOR ACRRM

The Federal Government will make \$3.4 million available to the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) over the next 18 months to strengthen its role in supporting and training rural GPs, Health Minister Dr Michael Wooldridge has announced. Dr Wooldridge's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2000/mw/mw20096.htm>

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OPPOSITION ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF "INTRANSIGENCE"

Shadow Health Minister, Ms Jenny Macklin, has expressed disappointment that the Government had refused to reconsider its "harsh" approach to rural doctor scholarships.

"We need to get more doctors into rural areas by giving encouragement and the right incentives. The Government legislation has taken a coercive approach that has turned people off because they think they will have to work in rural Australia forever," Ms Macklin said.

Ms Macklin's statement is available at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1100/jmmsrds071100.html>

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REMOTE & RURAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for registered and enrolled nurses with an interest in and commitment to remote or rural nursing.

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care recognises the need to strengthen remote and rural health in Australia by supporting continuing professional development for nurses through the provision of scholarship awards.

Funding is available for nurses wishing to attend conferences between January 2001 and July 2001. A contribution to travel and conference registration fees will be considered. Applications close Thursday 30 November 2000.

For further information and application forms, please contact -
Margo Wright
Scholarships Project Officer
Royal College of Nursing, Australia
PO Box 219 DEAKIN ACT 2600
Tel: 02 6282 5633, fax: 02 6282 3565, email: margow@rcna.org.au

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From: Lesley Fitzpatrick <lfitzpatrick@ozemail.com.au>
Subject: request for info

Kristine Fisher from the NH&MRC will be doing research on voluntary carers and community support people in rural areas. If anyone knows of any relevant research, publications, projects or organisations she should contact, can you please e-mail her at: kristine.fisher@health.gov.au

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From: Michelle Whyard <mwhyard@alga.com.au>
Subject: Regional Solutions Program

Applications for funding under the first round of the 4 year Regional Solutions Program are invited from non-profit groups with strong community or regional support, or a local government body. To demonstrate community support for proposals, applicants will be encouraged to obtain cash or in-kind contributions from other sources, which may include appropriate state and local government bodies. Grants are available of between \$1,000 and \$500,000.

Information on Regional Solutions is available at <http://www.regionalsolutions.gov.au> or by freecall 1800 026 222. (Note: If you have ideas for your community but are not yet ready to make an application, you have the opportunity to complete an expression of interest form and forward to the Regional Solutions Program - they may be able to provide information or advice on how to develop your idea.) Applications for funding can be submitted at any time in accordance with published Guidelines and Application Forms. Proposals that miss the advertised closing date for an assessment round will be assessed in the following round. Calls for applications will be advertised several times per year. According to the website, the "key date" for the next assessment round will be 24 November.

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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 763 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.