

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 8 December 2000

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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 conference brochure and program has now been posted to the NRHA website. The brochure is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/index.htm> and the program is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/program.htm>. The exhibition and sponsorship brochure for exhibitors is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/exhibition.htm>

Most importantly, online registration is available at <https://www.amlink.com.au/secure/nrhc01.htm>

The best email contact for the 6th Conference is [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)

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From: Desley Hegney <[hegney@exchange.usq.edu.au](mailto:hegney@exchange.usq.edu.au)>  
Subject: First Australian Rural and Remote Accredited Nurse Practitioner Course

The University of Southern Queensland has had its Masters of Advanced Nursing Practice (Rural and Remote) accredited as a nurse practitioner course by the NRB of NSW. The course will commence in 2001. There are compulsory clinical placements and the course is based on the ANF and RAN Competency Assessments. It is a HEC course.

Inquires should be directed to Professor Desley Hegney on Phone 07 46312971 or email: [hegney@usq.edu.au](mailto:hegney@usq.edu.au)

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From: Christopher Bryg <cbryg@mail.usyd.edu.au>  
Subject: MIRAGE receives award for excellence

On Wednesday 29 November, The University of Sydney Union, in conjunction with Andersen Consulting, presented MIRAGE (Multidisciplinary Interest in Rural And General health Education) - The University of Sydney Rural Health Club - with the "Award for Excellence for outstanding contribution by a student organisation to the wider university community."

The annual award is presented to a club or society associated with the University Union that has displayed exceptional contribution to the diverse social, cultural and political tapestry of the university.

MIRAGE received extended applause from Dame Leonie Kramer, Chancellor, The University of Sydney, for its projects. These include high schools careers workshops, professional development workshops, attendance at various conferences including the National Undergraduate Rural Health Conference and commitment to drawing together students from campuses over the Sydney Metropolitan Area and at other universities.

MIRAGE's association with the NRHN and NRHA was mentioned during the presentation of the award, alluding to the broader network of student rural health clubs and its role in contributing to the health of rural Australians.

The award was received by the outgoing President, Christopher Bryg (OT4) and the Vice-President for 2001, Christine May (Dentistry4).

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2000 President - MIRAGE  
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AIHW REPORT ON DIABETES

A report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, "Diabetes as a Cause of Death, Australia 1997 and 1998" shows that diabetes contributes to around 9,500 deaths in Australia each year.

The report shows that Indigenous Australians are twice as likely to die from diabetes-related deaths (underlying or associated) as non-Indigenous Australians. This difference is substantially higher among the 35-44 age group, where the proportion of

deaths among Indigenous Australians is six times that of non-Indigenous Australians.

The AIHW media release is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/inet/media/2000/mr001130.html> and the report is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/inet/publications/health/dcda97-98/index.html>

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## PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS AND RURAL SERVICES

A research report by ACIL Consulting, and funded by the Rural Industries R&D Corporation, entitled "Professional regulation: its impact on rural Australia", argues that professional regulation is raising costs and reducing services to rural and remote areas. In particular, the report states that "there is an artificial, regulation-induced, shortage of GPs in regional areas."

The evidence for these contentions is not strong. The report describes itself as "preliminary", providing a basis for further research into whether these contentions are in fact true. However, that does not stop the report's authors from making strong claims in this area.

The report is available at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/GLC/00-159.pdf>

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Reprinted from NUA Internet Surveys, <http://www.nua.com>, December 4 2000  
Subject: Prognosis is good for online health

Many US Internet users believe online health information has directly affected their decisions about how to treat illnesses and deal with doctors.

According to a new study from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 47 percent of people who sought health information for themselves online said the information influenced their decisions about health and care.

Participants in the study said online information helped them to decide how to treat illnesses, prepared them to ask questions of their doctors or seek second opinions, and helped them determine whether a visit to the doctor was required.

Overall, 52 million Americans have sought health information on the Web, with most of these 'health seekers' going online at least once a month to research medical issues.

Despite the popularity of online health information, the vast majority of people are concerned about privacy on such sites. Almost 90 percent of consumers who use health sites are worried that companies will collect and share data about the websites they visit, and many are concerned that insurance companies and employers will find out the type of medical information they access online.

This concern over online privacy may be one of the reasons why interest in online surgeries and pharmacies is low. Few of those surveyed have purchased medicine or vitamins online, and only 9 percent have exchanged emails with their doctors.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/releases/release.asp?id=10>

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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 768 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](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au). To unsubscribe, send a message saying “unsubscribe NRHA eforum” to [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au). The archive of the e-forum is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/newsletter.htm>