

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 21 January 2001

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From: Gordon Gregory <nrha@ruralhealth.org.au>  
Subject: From the Alliance

The new Executive of the NRHA met in Melbourne, 17-18 January, at the premises of the Victorian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild (thanks to the PGA(V)!).

Discussion centred on issues of governance and on converting the year's strategic priorities for the Alliance into specific workplans. The context is a busy year in which there is the 6th Conference, the Federal Budget and a number of elections due, including the Federal one.

The Alliance will establish a Governance Sub-Committee to oversight and report on issues in this area. There will be a new process of re-accreditation for the Alliance's Member Bodies, to ensure that the Alliance retains its credibility and passion.

friends of the Alliance is now an important part of the Alliance's information and policy-development processes; the outcome of those processes will, as ever, be managed by the 22 Member Bodies through their delegates to Council.

The 2001 production plan for PARTYline, the Alliance's quarterly newsletter, includes a bumper issue immediately after the 6th Conference which will have Conference recommendations, news and pictures. Members of friends will receive the CD ROM, discounted subscription rates to the Australian Journal of Rural Health and the Alliance's Conferences, a regular letter and the special role in refining NRHA position papers. There will be a meeting of friends at the 6th Conference.

The Alliance has recently sent reports for the year 2000 on the administration of the John Flynn Scholarship Scheme and the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme to the Department of Health and Aged Care. There are nearly 600 John Flynn Scholars and over 430 medical undergraduates with a RAMUS scholarship, both of the Schemes being funded by the Federal Department of Health.

STOP PRESS: Jean Kittson and Steve Clark will Chair all of the plenary sessions at the 6th Conference, providing coherence and continuity to the whole event.

Gordon Gregory  
Executive Director

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From: Gordon Gregory <nrha@ruralhealth.org.au>  
Subject: The NRHA would like your views - -!!

The Alliance is pulling together views on a number of issues and would appreciate receiving ideas on them. Send your thoughts to nrha@ruralhhealth.org.au

The issues are:

- ? the Allied Health Workforce in rural and remote areas
- ? nursing training and rural/remote placements
- ? IT Capacity, hardware and training
- ? rural and remote families, early intervention and a 'Families First' approach
- ? regional training and support for rural health professionals - in and for the regions
- ? participation and representation of rural and remote people – the “1/3 – 1/3 – 1/3” principle
- ? the need for a clearer overall 'Rural Policy for Australia'
- ? moving to needs-based funding for health

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#### NRHA STATEMENT ON NEW CEO OF RACGP

The NRHA has issued a statement welcoming the appointment of Ms Liz Furler as the new CEO of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/9101.htm>.

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#### 6th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Good Health, Good Country – from Conception to Completion, is the theme for the 6th National Rural Health Conference. It is being held in Canberra, 4-7 March 2001 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The conference brochure and program is available 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>

Registration on-line is encouraged. Online registration is available at <https://www.amlink.com.au/secure/nrhc01.htm>

A draft of the concurrent session papers is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/matrix.htm>

Because many individuals and organisations are still not operational after the summer break, the deadline for the Early Bird registration for the 6th National Rural Health Conference has been extended from 12 January to Friday 26 January.

There is a high level of interest in the Conference for a number of reasons. The

public is still expecting Governments and professional organisations to ‘deliver the goods’ on health and well-being for rural people and the communities in which they live. There are elections scheduled in a number of jurisdictions over the next twelve months and the Conference provides a unique opportunity for people to have their say on rural and remote health.

The Conference will feature over 30 papers in the Infront-Outback health scientific stream, over 50 papers in the general stream and 15 in an Arts in Health stream. The Australia Council has provided a grant to support the Arts in Health activities at the Conference.

After 26 January the full registration fee rises to \$660.

Further statements on the Conference are available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/7101.htm> and <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/21101>.

Further information: Kate Henley, Conference Secretary 02 6285 4660, email [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)

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From: Jenny Bolger <[jenny@sugp.bal.cs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenny@sugp.bal.cs.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: NSW rural health scholarships website

A website has been developed in NSW to provide information about scholarships available for rural students and others to study a tertiary health course.

The site, at <http://www.nswrdn.com.au/scholarships/scholarships.cfm>, lists scholarships, bursaries etc which may assist rural students to study a health course at university, or help tertiary health students gain rural experience as part of their clinical training.

The database includes most health courses offered by universities in NSW, ACT and the border areas – search by discipline, key criteria, university or scholarship purpose to find what dollars are on offer to help finance your tertiary health studies.

The website is a collaborative project between the NSW Rural Doctors Network and the University of Sydney and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care - Rural Health Support, Education and Training (RHSET) Program 2000.

Jenny Bolger  
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From: Janette Gay <Janette.Gay@dhs.sa.gov.au>  
Subject: 4th Australian Women's Health Conference

The 4th Australian Women's Health Conference: Politics, Action & Renewal will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 19-21 February 2001. It is auspiced by the Australian Women's Health Network and sponsored by the SA Department of Human Services, OATSIH and the Health Insurance Commission.

It promises to be a great conference with women and men coming from across Australia and overseas. The Conference Organising Committee would like to extend and invitation to you to attend. The program is now finalised and will include:

- \* excellent international and Australian speakers, including Beatrix Campbell (UK), Sandra Coney (NZ), Nomfundo Walaza (Sth Africa) from overseas, as well as Jocelyn Scutt, Jackie Huggins, Mary Kalantis, Helen Meekosha, Dorothy Broom and Kerry Arabena, etc from Australia
- \* strong Aboriginal representation in the conference, arts and social programs
- \* broad range of papers, forums and workshops focussing on the politics and practice of women health
- \* extensive social and arts program, including a party at the Art Gallery of SA.

Please register by downloading the form from the website <http://www.awhn.org.au> or by telephoning Festival City Conventions on (08) 8363 1307.

The price of full registrations has been kept below \$400 to support participation. There will also be a evening forum at the conference with international speaker Beatrix Campbell at the Adelaide Convention Centre at 6.00pm, Monday 19 February 2001.

Looking forward to seeing you there. It will be a great chance to celebrate the achievements and opportunities in women's health in Australia. Please register ASAP and pass this information on to others.

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From: Robert Cummins <cummins@deakin.edu.au>  
Subject: Australian Center on Quality of Life

A new web-site has been created by the Australian Center on Quality of Life at <http://acqol.deakin.edu.au>

ACQOL has the aim of facilitating research into quality of life. To this end the site

contains several types of resources including the following:

- \* A Directory of Instruments with over 550 entries
- \* A Bibliography with over 6,000 entries
- \* Data sites with 19 entries

It also contains links to other related sites, theses, links to chat groups, etc.

Since this site is maintained by Deakin University, all available information can be scanned or downloaded free of charge. You are also welcome to submit additional information or documentation for inclusion at any time.

Your comments are most welcome and should be addressed to Bob Cummins  
cummins@deakin.edu.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 866 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.