

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 2 February 2001

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NRHA STATEMENT - SIXTH CONFERENCE A BIENNIAL AUDIT OF THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIANS

On 21 January the Alliance released a statement describing the Sixth National Rural Health Conference as "a biennial audit of the health and well-being of rural and remote Australians." The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/21101.htm>

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A CHORUS OF RURAL APPROVAL

On 24 January the Alliance joined what it called "a chorus of rural approval" for the announcement of the Young Australian of the Year, James Fitzpatrick. The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/24101.htm>

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NRHA STATEMENT ON ARTS IN HEALTH AT THE SIXTH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

On 26 January the Alliance announced that the Australia Council had agreed to support the Arts in Health stream at the Sixth National Rural Health Conference. The statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/26101.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>

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.

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.

The full registration fee is \$660.

Further information: Kate Henley, Conference Secretary 02 6285 4660, email conference@ruralhealth.org.au

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RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS IN RURAL HEALTH

Two research scholarships in rural health are available at the University of Ballarat. These full-time scholarships are due to commence in 2001 and are tenable for up to 3 and a half years. Any eligible person may apply.

The scholarships are funded through the ARC's Strategic Partnerships with Industry - Research and Training (SPIRT) scheme. The University has entered into partnership agreements with industry (see below). Students who win the scholarships are enrolled at the University of Ballarat for a Ph.D.

Project 1

This research project will investigate the recruitment and retention of general practitioners to rural and remote areas of Australia. The industry partners for this project are the Ballarat and District Division of General Practice, and the Beaufort and Skipton Health Service.

Project 2

This research project will examine the use of information technology and evidence-based practice among rural health practitioners. The industry partner for this project is the Department of Human Services (Grampians Region).

Any person who has appropriate qualifications and experience may apply for a scholarship. Both scholarships would be appropriate for persons with a background in health or health-related fields. This may include the social sciences, behavioural sciences, health promotion, public health, nursing, health policy and planning, etc.

Each scholarship is worth \$22,000 per year tax free. In addition, the student has access to research funds (about \$5,000 per year) and in-kind support provided by the industry

partner/s. The student can also gain part-time employment (about a day a week). The Centre for Rural and Regional Health at the University of Ballarat may be able to provide part-time employment.

Please note that these two post-graduate positions are fully funded. In other words, the candidate does not have to pay HECS fees.

To apply, contact Dr. John McDonald at the University of Ballarat (phone 5327 9629 or email j.mcdonald@ballarat.edu.au). You can also obtain more information and download an application form at <http://www.ballarat.edu.au/seds>

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MEDICARE AND RURAL AUSTRALIA

A new feature on the NRHA website is a facility for anyone interested in rural health issues to post relevant research or information articles, along with a discussion forum for responses, that are too long for the fortnightly e-forum. The articles and any responses are the views of the authors alone and not necessarily those of the NRHA or its member organisations.

The first article is by Ben Harris, entitled "The Harmful Effects of Increased Medicare Rebates for Rural and Remote Australia", is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/harris.htm>

You can send a response to this article, or an article of your own, to grovesc@winshop.com.au. The NRHA reserves the right to select articles to be posted on the website according to relevance and quality criteria.

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From: Liz Chinchon <lizc@chere.usyd.edu.au>
Subject: 4th International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services

The 4th International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services is to be held in Sydney from 22-25 September 2001 at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre.

- This conference will present exciting new directions in:
- * best practice development and implementation
 - * health service quality improvement
 - * evidence based health care at international and national levels.

Previous conferences have been held in London, Amsterdam and Toronto. Now it is Sydney's turn and we have secured the world's most outstanding leaders in this field. Don't miss out on what could be the most important international meeting of 2001 – setting the agenda for improving health services worldwide. We encourage you to present your current research and participate in the lively exchange of ideas that this conference will promote.

Please register your interest now by visiting the Conference website at <http://www.icsbhs.org>

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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 864 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.