

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 22 June 2001

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SIXTH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The presentations and papers from the Sixth National Rural Health Conference are now being progressively posted to the NRHA website.

Most of the PowerPoint presentations and Poster presentations are available at the site now; the papers will be posted over the next few days. Links to the presentations and papers are provided on the Conference program page at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/program.htm>

The Conference recommendations are still available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/recs.htm> and the ABC webcast is still available at <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/health/default.htm>

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6th NATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 6th National Undergraduate Rural Health Conference will be held on the Tasman Peninsula, Tasmania, from 22 - 26 September 2001.

The organising committee is calling for expressions of interest from people wishing to deliver papers to the concurrent sessions of the Conference. Full details can be found on the Website at <http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/nurhc-2001>

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From: Keith Blumfield <keith@depressionet.com.au>
Subject: depressioNet

I work for the Internet site depressionet.com.au that provides one place for Australian depression sufferers and their families and friends to find all their information, help and support needs.

There is no commercial advertising on depressionet.com.au. The site is free from 'Internet glitz' and is designed with the specific needs of depression sufferers in mind. depressionet.com.au exists to serve the Australian public and is produced by 'people like us' - who come from a variety of backgrounds and have personal experience with depression.

Our driver in all activities: "Is it of interest and / or help to Australians with depression and their families and friends?" An advisory panel of health professionals complements our team.

depressionet.com.au was selected as a finalist in the Australian Financial Review Internet Industry Awards 2000 at which time it had been live only four months. We have full support of all consumer and professional organisations in the mental health care industry, and most importantly, the response from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive.

Our major objective is to reduce the impact of depression on the lives of Australians by significantly increasing the proportion of sufferers who seek professional help and treatment.

One of our major challenges is to let people know that depressionet.com.au exists as a resource for them. We would appreciate it if you would help people to find us by including a link to <http://www.depressionet.com.au> from your site.

Please contact me if you would like further information.

Warm Regards
Keith Blumfield
03 9898 9165

Visit <http://www.depressionet.com.au>
Your one-stop resource for information, help and support!

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RECOGNITION FOR AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

“Volunteering, and the community-minded spirit underpinning it, forms an important ingredient in our national ethos,” Professor Nick Saunders, Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), said this week as he launched the 2001: NHMRC Health Volunteer Awards.

The 2001: NHMRC Health Volunteer Awards will recognise excellence in activities in four categories: Fundraising, Community Service, Direct Service Provision, and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. In each category two individual volunteers of the year (one metropolitan and one rural) and two volunteer organisations of the year (one metropolitan and one rural) will be selected from all

nominations received and will be awarded on a State/Territory and then National basis.

“The NHMRC recognise that volunteers play an integral role in our health care system, and often receive little or no acknowledgment for their valuable contribution in providing health services,” Professor Alan Pettigrew, CEO of the NHMRC, added.

“To mark 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, the NHMRC believes it appropriate that the efforts of Australia’s health service volunteers be recognised, acknowledged and celebrated in a national awards program, paying tribute to individuals and organisations who have dedicated their time and energy to the health field.”

State and Territory Awards will be presented in early September 2001 in suitable ceremonies, with a National Awards Ceremony to take place at a luncheon at Parliament House, Canberra, in late September 2001.

Nominations close 20 July 2001.

Information and Nomination Kits are currently being distributed to all Federal and State MP offices. Kits are also available from the NHMRC Volunteer Awards

Coordinator on Phone: (02) 6289 9812, Fax: (02) 6289 9820, E-mail:

nhmrc_volunteer_awards@health.gov.au, or, alternatively, Kits can be accessed via the NHMRC website at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>

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AMA ALTERNATIVE ON PROVIDER NUMBERS

The AMA has proposed an alternative to the Federal Government's proposal to remove the sunset clause on Medicare provider number restrictions.

AMA President, Dr Kerryn Phelps, said that the proposals of Health Minister, Dr Michael Wooldridge, will make it harder to get doctors to live and work in rural areas and will hinder the career prospects of Australian junior doctors.

Dr Phelps said the relaxation of provider number restrictions is the key to retaining those doctors already working in country Australia and attracting more doctors to rural and regional Australia.

"Removing the sunset clause without a proposed AMA amendment will severely disadvantage the career prospects of Australian junior doctors – the very people the Government should be encouraging into country practice,"

Dr Phelps said.

The AMA is proposing an amendment to the Bill that would allow young doctors to participate in "terms" of supervised general practice, just like they get in the other disciplines such as surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, and emergency medicine.

The AMA statement is available at

<http://domino.ama.com.au/AMASWeb/MediaRel.nsf/Media?OpenView>. Dr Wooldridge's announcement, as reported in the last issue of the NRHA e-forum, is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2001/mw/mw01047.htm>

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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 1,189 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. The archive of the e-forum is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/newsletter.htm>