

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 8 November 2001

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## FEDERAL ELECTION

The NRHA's Election Charter for the election that has been called for 10 November 2001 was released on 17 September 2001. The full text of the Charter is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/charter.htm>

The Alliance has released two statements since the last e-forum. These were

- \* Rural and remote health: the State of the Parties, issued on 5 November 2001, and available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/51101.htm>
- \* Howard's commitment enhances prospect of bi-partisan support for more rural and remote nurses, issues on 31 October 2001, and available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/311001.htm>

Both releases are reprinted in full below.

AMA President, Dr Kerry Phelps, said both the major parties are fiddling while Medicare burns. "The AMA has maintained for some time that the key to kickstarting Medicare is to address the structural deficiencies leading to higher gap payments for patients by significantly increasing the Medicare rebate under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). The Coalition made it clear that the MBS is not a priority for them. Labor did the same," Dr Phelps said. Dr Phelps' statement is available at <http://domino.ama.com.au/AMASWeb/MediaRel.nsf/Media?OpenView>

In contrast, ANF Federal Secretary Jill Iliffe said that at least Labor, the Democrats and the Greens have been listening to what the nurses of Australia have been saying. "Labor's commitment to aged care funding linked to a benchmark of care and to closing the wages gap for nurses in aged care are particularly welcome, as are their policies on public hospitals and public education." The ANF has consistently opposed the Liberal Coalition's industrial relations policies, and have found their refusal to see nursing as a national issue, especially at this time of national shortage, very frustrating. The ANF is committed to working with all governments on behalf of nurses and the people nurses provide care to, however we can only work with a government that is prepared to listen, to take our issues seriously and to work with us to resolve them," Ms Iliffe said. Ms Iliffe's statement is available at <http://www.anf.org.au/>

Mr David Lindsay, President of the Association of Australian Rural Nurses, said that

AARN "noted that despite there being some acknowledgment of the problems in health by the ALP and Coalition in their pre-election policy launches, no clear policies by either party target the well-documented needs of people in rural communities. The specific needs of the rural nursing workforce have also lacked acknowledgment and policies from both parties are silent on this issue." The AARN statement is available at <http://www.aarn.asn.au/media/re120011107.html>

Each Party has an active website providing information on policies. For example

\* Election statements by the Prime Minister, including a statement on \$66 million to fight suicide released on 3 November and a carers policy released on 29 October, are available at <http://www.liberal.org.au/MEDIA/campaign/HOWARD/howard.HTM>

\* Labor's website at <http://www.alp.org.au> lists policy statements

\* the National Party's policies are posted at <http://www.nationalparty.org/policies/index.htm>

Democrat policies are listed at <http://www.democrats.org.au/policies/>

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From: Brundeg, Bobbie <<mailto:rbrundeg@binghamton.edu>>  
Subject: Third International Congress of Rural Nursing

The Decker School of Nursing, Binghamton University, is sponsoring the Third International Congress of Rural Nursing in October 2002. Further information is available at <http://dson.binghamton.edu/IRHC/IRHC.htm>

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36th CARPA Conference:  
What Makes People Sick, What Makes People Better  
Social Determinants Of Health – Implications for Our Practice  
Note Change: Venue: Theatrette, Centralian College, Sadadeen. Alice Springs

Friday 30th November 2001  
12:00 – 1:00 Pre Conference Workshop Introducing Implanon – Information and technique.  
Dr Allan Hughes.  
1:00 Video Conference Key Note. Michael Marmot. University College London  
2:00 John Furler. RACGP Equity issues confronting General Practice: measuring and enhancing quality in primary care."  
3:30 Social Determinants an overview. Kerin O'Dea  
4:15 Implications for research. Sandra Levers  
5:00 CARPA Snippets. CADPHC launch of Orientation Package and Hospital Liason Kit  
Community based rehabilitation - what is it like in Mutitjulu - Dale Carroll.  
CARHDS Update, Deborah Durnan. Clinical Procedures Manual. Sabina Knight

Saturday 1st December 2001.

8:45 Canadian Child Health Study, what does it suggest for here? Ian Dumbrell

9:20 Local perspectives on social determinants. Stephanie Bell

10:45 Education and Health Inequalities. Bob Boughton

11:30 Allied health services – what impact is possible? Annie Farthing.

1:30 Social determinants and some specific issues. Kerin O'Dea

2:30 Conference Summary. Sarena Rudiger

3:15-5:00 Inaugural CARPA business session, adoption of constitution & election of office bearers, CARPA STM evaluation, Feedback John Wakerman. Progress report. STM. Dan Ewald

Registration - Conference and BBQ \$60      Session \$30 Payable on the day.

Further information –

Sabina Knight, Convener.      Email [sabina.knight@flinders.edu.au](mailto:sabina.knight@flinders.edu.au) 89514709

Peter Tait, Treasurer.      Email [aspertert@bigpond.com](mailto:aspertert@bigpond.com),      89514444

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### THIRD ROUND OF RAMUS APPLICATIONS

NRHA is now able to inform you of prospective dates for the 3rd round of RAMUS applications. The opening date is scheduled for early December 2001 and closing end of February 2002.

It is anticipated that RAMUS will be advertised in rural, regional, major metropolitan and national newspapers late November 2001.

This timeframe will also be advertised on the web at  
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships.htm>

Please call 1800 460 440 if assistance is required of the RAMUS scholarships team.

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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 1,170 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.