

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 7 December 2001

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RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING SUMMIT

At a time when nursing issues are receiving a welcome priority in health debates, nine national nursing bodies have come together to plan future directions for nursing in rural and remote areas.

The Rural and Remote Area Nursing Summit will be held in Adelaide in July 2002. It will help ensure that current and proposed developments in nursing policy and practice are informed by the realities for nurses and for nursing practice in rural and remote areas of Australia.

The 2002 Summit will be a public event. Anyone interested in the contribution of nursing to health outcomes in rural and remote areas will be welcome.

The first point of contact at the Alliance for matters related to the 2002 RRANS and its related activities is Lyn Eisele. on 02 6285 4660 or lyn@ruralhealth.org.au

The full text of the NRHA statement on the summit is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/301101>. The NRHA background paper on the summit is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nursingsummit301101.doc>

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ACRRM SCIENTIFIC FORUM AND RWAV CONFERENCE APRIL 30, 2002, CARLTON CREST HOTEL, MELBOURNE INTEGRATION – Working together for Rural Medicine

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) will hold its second scientific forum in collaboration with the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV). The ACRRM Scientific Forum and RWAV Victorian Rural General Practice Conference will be held on Tuesday, 30 April, 2002 in Melbourne in association with the Fifth Wonca World Conference on Rural Health and will be open to all Wonca delegates.

The program will focus upon Australian initiatives in Rural and Remote Medicine covering Medical Education, Training, Professional Development, Research and Teaching. It will also cover Rural workforce and support issues including Female practitioners, Practice Nurses, Aboriginal Health and workforce, Overseas Trained Doctors and Integrated Regional Training.

Held at the Carlton Crest Hotel prior to the Wonca Opening Ceremony, the ACRRM Scientific Forum and RWAV Conference will perfectly compliment your stay in Melbourne and provide you with an inspirational insight into the current developments and initiatives in rural and remote medicine in Australia.

For enquiries, contact ACRRM, Phone 61 7 3352 8600 Fax 61 7 3356 2167 or email acrrm@acrrm.org.au or contact RWAV, phone 61 3 9349 4899 Fax 61 3 9349 4211 or email rwav@rwav.com.au.

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COMMONWEALTH RURAL AND REMOTE NURSE RE-ENTRY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Helping get nurses back into health facilities in rural Australia is the goal of a new Federal Government scholarship scheme that has been established for nurses with lapsed registrations living in rural and remote areas.

The Rural and Remote Nurse Re-Entry Scholarship Scheme is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and will be administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA). The Scheme is to be run over four years and each year 400 scholarships of up to \$3,000 will be made available to enable nurses to complete an accredited re-registration program.

Application forms and guidelines are available by contacting RCNA on freecall: 1800 117 262. Applications close on 25 January 2002.

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NEW HEAD OF COMMONWEALTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ms Jane Halton, currently an Executive Co-ordinator in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, will become Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing, Prime Minister John Howard announced on 7 December 2001. The full text of Mr Howard's statement is at http://www.pm.gov.au/news/media_releases/2001/media_release1404.htm

Jane Halton has been the Executive Co-Coordinator Social Policy Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, where she had responsibility for Commonwealth Government Social Policy. This included oversight and responsibility for Health, Social Security, Employment, Education, Immigration and Indigenous Policy. In addition, she was responsible for the Office of the Status of Women.

Previously Jane Halton was national program manager of the Federal Government's Aged and Community Care Program. She has held the position of Principal Advisor, Corporate Development Group in the Department of Human Services and Health and Assistant Secretary, Community Care.

Jane has also had experience in the Department of Finance, Social Security, Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. She has qualifications in psychology from the Australian National University.

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FIRST STATEMENT FROM NEW HEALTH MINISTER

In welcoming her appointment as Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson indicated that her priorities are to implementing the initiatives outlined in the 2001/02 Budget and the commitments made in the Future Action Plan for Health. These include more doctors for outer metropolitan areas, improved after hours care, better treatment for cancer patients, improved palliative care, better arthritis care, negotiating health care agreements. The full text of Senator Patterson's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2001/kp/kp01001.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 1,166 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.