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**BUILDING THE RURAL AND REMOTE NURSING WORKFORCE**

Nurses, health managers and employers, and people concerned about nursing services for country areas are invited to contribute to a new national effort to build the rural and remote nursing workforce. Four Working Groups have been established: on best practice in recruitment and retention of rural and remote nurses; a national framework (mutual recognition, regulatory requirements, workforce planning, career pathways, and financing); education and training; and roles and service models. This work will be used to develop a draft Charter of Rural and Remote Nursing for presentation at the Rural and Remote Area Nursing Summit in July 2002.

Full text of the Alliance statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/141201.htm>

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**ALLIANCE WELCOMES NEW LEADERS FOR TWO OF ITS MEMBER BODIES**

New leaders have been elected to two of the twenty-one Member Bodies of the NRHA. They are Dr Ken Mackey of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Ms Pat Anderson of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

Dr Ken Mackey is a solo general practitioner at Lockhart in southern New South Wales. Dr Mackey was elected President of RDAA by its Committee of Management to succeed Dr David Mildenhall, from Albany in Western Australia. Ms Pat Anderson, Chair of the Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service in Darwin, was recently elected President of NACCHO. Ms Anderson succeeds the late Dr Puggy Hunter.

The full text of the Alliance statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/131201.htm>

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ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF NURSES IN COUNTRY AREAS

Consideration of the roles and professional relationships of nurses will be part of work undertaken in the lead-up to the national Rural and Remote Area Nursing Summit to be held next year. The work is being led by the three nursing bodies in the NRHA, with five other national nursing organisations and the other Member Bodies of the Alliance. The full text of the Alliance statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/201201.htm>

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ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN RURAL NURSES RECEIVES FUNDING FOR SECRETARIAT

AARN has received notification of funding from the Commonwealth Government to formally establish a Secretariat, prospective for years 2002-2004.

This funding represents a significant milestone for AARN leading up to its 10th Anniversary in 2002, and will enable the Association to put in place much needed infrastructure as well as information and support for rural nurses.

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EXTENSION TO RURAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson, has announced 30 additional scholarships for rural nursing students. Senator Patterson said the extension of the Commonwealth Undergraduate Remote and Rural Nursing Scholarship (CURRNS) Scheme was an indication of its overwhelming success.

"Since the scheme was advertised in September this year, many applications have been received for the original 110 scholarships announced in the Federal Budget. I am very pleased to announce today 30 additional places, bringing the number of places available to 140," Senator Patterson said.

She said the scholarships would be awarded to students enrolling in an undergraduate nursing degree in 2002. The scholarships are valued at \$10,000 for each year of full time undergraduate study. Ten scholarships are set aside each year specifically for rural or remote based Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander nursing students.

Applications that were received in the 2001 scholarship round have been assessed for eligibility and ranked according to rural experience and financial need. The additional 30 scholarships will be awarded to the next 30 highest ranked applicants. Students will be notified of their success before 30 December 2001.

The CURRNS Scheme is being administered through the Royal College of Nursing, Australia and the next scholarship round will take place in June 2002. Application forms and guidelines will be available from March 2002 by contacting the College on 1800 061 660 or by visiting their website at <http://www.rcna.org.au>

The full text of Senator Patterson's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2001/kp/kp01004.htm>

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RURAL & REMOTE MEDICAL EDUCATION ONLINE

(Extract from THE 2001 UPDATE: AuNz Net and Information Industry Briefs, 9th December 2001. To subscribe, email [acreed@netspace.net.au](mailto:acreed@netspace.net.au) with the words "Subscribe Update" in the subjectline.

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine has set up a new medical education Web portal, Rural and Remote Medical Education Online.

The portal integrates medical developments, online vocational training and research content from medical education providers.

"Rural and Remote Medical Education Online is the first portal to bring together accreditation and professional development activity for medical professionals, and deliver them via the Internet," said Vicki Sheedy, education and training manager at the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

"The portal provides the infrastructure for a virtual community of rural health practitioners and educational and professional organisations that provide medical education," she added. "It is about taking the remote out of rural and remote medicine."

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine provides specific professional qualifications for doctors working in rural or remote areas.

Web: <http://www.rrmeo.com/>

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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 Eiszle. on 02 6285 4660 or [lyn@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto: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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**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 1,168 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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