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NATIONAL PROGRAM TO FIGHT FLU IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over have been encouraged to be vaccinated against influenza and pneumococcal disease under a national immunisation program launched by Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson. Senator Patterson's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2002/kp/kp02012.htm>

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ATTRACTING RURAL DOCTORS
(Extract from ABC AM Program: 12/3/2002)

Much has been said about the difficulty of attracting doctors to rural and regional areas. Local councils, among others, now offer a range of incentives to try to maintain a reasonable level of medical services. The full AM story is available at <http://abc.net.au/am/s502153.htm>

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RURAL EDUCATION WEBSITE

A rural education website has been established at <http://www.rural.edu.au/index.html>. The site is focused on the promotion of and collaboration in rural and remote education - primary, secondary and tertiary. The site hosts several collaborative activities, provides an opportunity for the establishment of networks of educators and community members, and provides access to a range of interesting resource links.

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RHYTHMS IN THE OUTBACK

The inaugural Rhythms in the Outback Music Festival sponsored by Guinness and organised by the Royal Flying Doctor Service will bring the streets of Boulder alive over the weekend of 13th and 14th April. The festival will offer a variety of entertainment for the whole family, including live music, street theatre, interactive performance, workshops and more. One of

the highlights will be the performing arts street parade leading the community to the main concert at the Digger Daws oval on Saturday night.

Barbara Howard from the RFDS and organiser of the festival says, "We are thrilled to have attracted Ernie Dingo to MC the main concert. He is acclaimed as one of Australia's finest contemporary actors and has the ability to engage audiences with his open, easy presence and use of humour. Ernie is also a big supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He understands the importance of the service we provide to outback communities like Kalgoorlie-Boulder so we feel doubly fortunate." Ernie Dingo has a long-standing association with the RFDS, even playing a part in the 1980's Australian Television program The Flying Doctors.

Tickets available from Kalgoorlie and Boulder Tourist Centres Info Line 9021 1966 and <http://www.rhythmsintheoutback.com>

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34th Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference: Mobilising Public Health – Call for Papers

The theme for the 34th Annual Conference of the Public Health Association of Australia is: Mobilising Public Health. The Conference is to be held from 29 September - 2 October 2002 at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

This conference will concentrate on demonstrating what public health can and does achieve its relevance and capacity, even in times of scarce resources. This conference will have a strong emphasis on action in public health. The conference will look at action in public health in various settings, from grass roots programs to administration and policy decisions.

A number of sub-themes will be highlighted, including Health surveillance and screening, Refugee Policy and Status, Public Health Administration and Structure, Technologies, and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health and well-being.

ABSTRACTS DEADLINE 16 APRIL 2002

Email abstracts to: conference@phaa.net.au

or send to:

PHAA, PO Box 319, CURTIN, ACT 2605

or by courier to:

PHAA, 20 Napier Close, DEAKIN, ACT 2600

Presenters will be notified of acceptance by the end of May 2002

For Further Information:

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AUSTRALIAN DOCTORS NOT INTERESTED IN INTERNET
(Extract from ABC Health News: 12/3/2002)

Australian doctors are reluctant to use the Internet as a source of information because it is too slow and information is hard to find, according to a recent survey.

The full ABC story is available at
http://abc.net.au/science/news/health/HealthRepublish_501717.htm

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Tasmanian Rural Health: Collaboration in Action
Saturday 4 May to Wednesday 8 May 2002

Head south for four days of touring Australia's only island state for a taste of rural life at its very best - gourmet food, fine wines and some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

This multi-disciplinary program provides an insight into collaborative health projects around the state and takes you on a coast to coast tour that kicks off at Agfest - the biggest agricultural expo in the country.

See first-hand how Tasmania's health community has tapped into technology to deliver health and education services to regional areas. You'll meet with urban and rural health professionals and volunteers who are working together to provide emergency medical services to local communities. Community/local government partnerships and initiatives aimed at recruitment and retention of rural health professionals form part of a dynamic program of leisure and learning, in a unique destination.

For enquiries contact:
Janette Papps, Events Coordinator, University Department of Rural Health
PO Box 252-103, Hobart.
Phone 61 3 6226 4748 or email Janette.Papps@utas.edu.au
Or visit our website at www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/wonca2002

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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 Eiszele. 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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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au.

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 1,150 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.