

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 7 June 2002

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7th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE – DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS 14 JUNE

The initial deadline for paper abstracts for the 7th National Rural Health Conference to be received at the Alliance's office in Canberra is Friday 14 June.

The 7th Conference will focus on all sectors that can make a contribution to the health of people in country Australia. Papers are being sought from the education, transport, community services, regional development and arts sectors, as well as from health interests more specifically. The Conference is being held in Hobart, 1-4 March 2003.

The full text of the Alliance statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/6602.htm> and is reprinted below.

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From: Gordon Gregory <gg@ruralhealth.org.au>
Subject: Action on Nursing in Rural and Remote Areas - Revised Project Outline and Timeline

'Action on Nursing in Rural and Remote Areas' is a 2-3 year project to ensure that rural and remote issues are appropriately placed in developments underway nationally with respect to nursing issues. These issues relate to nursing recruitment; education and training; retention and support; scope of practice; and practice environments.

The Project is to encourage and facilitate a national approach to these issues while at the same time recognising the major responsibilities and the significant developments achieved within particular State and Territory jurisdictions. The welcome establishment of national programs for undergraduate, post-graduate and re-entry scholarships provides a good example of the valuable role for national leadership.

A suite of activities will be required to meet the aims of the Project. The general sequence of activities is as follows:

- 1 development of the national collaboration to run the Project;
- 2 a first draft of the position papers;
- 3 widespread consultation on these draft papers;
- 4 a national meeting to seek agreement on desired future directions among key decision-makers and national leaders of rural and remote nursing;
- 5 a potential series of regional or state-based meetings to seek agreement on future directions and actions among key regional and state leaders; and
- 6 continued reappraisal of required steps forward and barriers to Action on Nursing in Rural and Remote Areas.

Steps 1 and 2 above have been completed and 3 is underway. Comments on the draft documents are encouraged. The papers are available at the "news" section of the Alliance website (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>). It is proposed that Step 4 be achieved through a Forum to be held in Canberra in October 2002.

The Project Committee is also considering regional and State-based meetings for the first half of 2003. Step 6 consists of the requirement to continually reappraise the situation for Action on Nursing in Rural and Remote Areas.

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From: Nick Stone <n.stone@unimelb.edu.au>
Subject: Interprofessional Education Symposium on Friday 12 July 2002, 9.30am to 4.30pm at The Department of General Practice, 200 Berkeley St, Carlton

Keynote Speakers:
Associate Professor Elaine Duffy, Department of Rural Health, Monash University
Professor Chris Moorhouse, Rural Health & Community Nursing, University of Tasmania
Professor James Dunbar, Director, Greater Green Triangle University Department Of Rural Health

The day will include presentations and workshops to:
* Recognise, celebrate and publicise achievements in Interprofessional Education so far
* Strengthen professional links between participants
* Develop strategies for future collaboration and consolidation in Interprofessional Education

Inquiries & RSVP by 14th June to: Caroline Curtis ph 8344 7331 email curtisc@unimelb.edu.au or Nick Stone ph 8344 7331 email n.stone@unimelb.edu.au. An invitation and details are available at <http://www.gp.unimelb.edu.au/research/ripe>

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URBAN BABIES - THE LAST STRAW FOR THE BUSH
(Extract from ABC 7.30 Report: 4/6/2002)

Rural Australia has suffered cuts to bank branches, police stations and other services. It has had inferior telecommunications compared to the cities. But for some, it is getting close to the last straw, when they find they can no longer have babies in their home town. That is the latest fallout from the medical indemnity crisis the Federal Government is working to resolve. Full story at <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/s573606.htm>

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From: Claire Rickards <crickards@sapmea.asn.au>
Subject: Auseinet Forum

Auseinet will be hosting a Forum called "Putting It All Together: A National Forum on Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health" on 15 - 17 September 2002 at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Adelaide.

'Putting It All Together' will be an opportunity for people from a wide range of sectors to come together to reflect on the experiences, thinking and practice in the areas of promotion, prevention, early intervention for mental health (PPEI) and suicide prevention across the lifespan. The Forum will seek to address the questions: Are there consistent messages? What are the challenges? What has been learnt? What kind of communities do we wish to live in? Are there new ways of working together?

Confirmed speakers to date include: Rev Tim Costello; Ms Robyn Layton QC; Dr Michael Murray (UK); Dr Rob Moodie (to name a few)

CALL FOR PAPERS: Auseinet welcomes the submission of abstracts for the presentation of papers in the streamed sessions on each of the two Forum days (16-17 September). The deadline for submission of Abstracts is 28th June, 2002. Please consult the web site and click on the link 'Call For Papers documents' for more information - <http://www.auseinet.com/wotsnew/atausei.php>

If we do not have your details on our mailing list, and you would like to be sent the Registration Booklet when available (end June), please email us at: auseinet@flinders.edu.au and provide us with your postal address details.

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Statistics can tell more than one story: Latest on rural use of the Internet
(Extract from SETEL newsbrief)

A new survey from Nielsen/NetRatings says the average user in regional Australia in the first quarter of 2002 accessed the internet 56 times and spent 29 hours online (that's a tick over two hours a week). This compared with 42 times and 24 hours in metropolitan areas. ARNnet put a jolly spin on this stat (cockies outstripping city slickers in cyber surfing) and a Nielsen guru suggested that in communities with fewer entertainment and information choices the internet was bound to play a larger role. Online banking showed similar figures: rural 55 minutes and 4.9 visits a month; metropolitan 42 minutes and 4.2 visits.

Call us cynical old possums if you like, but might longer hours spent on the net in fact signify slow service rather than enthusiastic use? Similarly, might more visits suggest more reconnections after dropouts? SETEL wonders whether those more traditional rural pastimes might still get a fair old hammering, internet or not. Anyone feel like milking the cows while the stock prices download, eh?

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Online health records proposed
(Extract from "The Australian", 6 June 2002)

Queensland-based research body the Distributed Systems Technology Centre (DSTC) has won a Federal Government contract to develop XML-based technology that would allow doctors to access medical records over the internet, or patients to access their own records online. Full story available at <http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,4460229%5e16123%5e%5enbv%5e,00.htm>

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NEW PACKAGE TO TACKLE TOBACCO USE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITES

Smoking is one the major causes of premature death and illness among indigenous people in Australia and a central factor in the continuing poor health of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson, said today.

Announcing a \$1 million package of measures designed to address tobacco use in indigenous communities, she said smoking rates in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were twice as high as in the non-indigenous population. Smoking rates in some indigenous communities were as high as 80 per cent.

The full text of Senator Patterson's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2002/kp/kp02051.htm>

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IT TO BENEFIT RURAL HEALTH IN QUEENSLAND

With the rapid development of new technologies, Health Promotion Queensland is seeking innovative ways to use technology to help people in rural and remote communities improve their health. Health Minister Wendy Edmond has invited consortia to apply for \$500,000 (over three years) to provide rural communities with the opportunity to combine the use of information technology with existing health promotion programs, campaigns or strategies.

At the same time, Ms Edmond announced that new video-conferencing equipment funded by the Toowoomba Hospital Renal Unit Race Day will help people with renal failure and cancer patients who live in rural and remote areas of the Darling Downs and South West. Ms Edmond said the Palliative and Renal Outreach Support and Education (PROSE) Service at the Toowoomba Hospital Renal Unit would also benefit staff, who will have easier access to training programs.

The full text of Ms Edmond's statements are available at <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au>

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From: Marily Cintra <Marily.Cintra@bigpond.com>
Subject: Synergy: Arts, Health and Design World Symposium, Sydney, 2 - 5 February 2003

Call for abstracts. June 5th is the deadline for early bird registration and call for abstracts.

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of an important event that will inspire and shape research and practice in the field. You can visit the web site of Synergy: Arts, Health and Design World Symposium.

Download the first announcement and call for papers or register online at <http://www.placemaking.com.au>

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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 1,148 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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