

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 27 September 2002

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**NRHA STATEMENT ON HEALTH WORKFORCE SHORTAGES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE**

The shortages of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in country areas will be featured in over 100 papers to be presented at the 7th National Rural Health Conference, as will programs to help remedy the issue. The full text of the statement is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/16902.htm>

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**AARN Annual Conference - 'At the Coal Face: Rural Nurses Working in Partnership'**  
To be held at the Launceston Tram Shed Function Centre, Tasmania, 28 February 2003

AARN is seeking abstracts to be submitted to the AARN Secretariat by 20 November 2002. Selection of abstracts by the Conference Committee is expected to be finalised by 20 December 2002. Abstracts may be posted, faxed or submitted by email. Email is preferable as this speeds up the distribution to the conference committee. Further information and Abstract Guidelines are available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/seventhconf/aarnconf.htm>

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Interested in becoming a "friend" of the Alliance? Become more involved with the work of the Alliance by becoming a "friend". "friends" support the Alliance by being an integral part of the Alliance's policy and evaluation process. They also receive other benefits. For more information on membership see <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/friends.htm>

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From: Charmaine Weeks <Charmaine.Weeks@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: ARCHI Toolkit Seminar

Improving Patient Safety: Can we do more?  
17-18 October, 2002  
Sydney Hilton, 259 Pitt St Sydney

This very exciting seminar includes a workshop by Prof Stuart Dunn. Other speakers include Dr Michael Walsh, Rob Grenfell, Prof Bill Runciman, Prof Alan Spigelman, Dr Ian O'Rourke, Dr Mark O'Brien and many more.

The seminar is support by NSW Health and the Institute for Clinical Excellence. The program for this event is on the ARCHI website, <http://www.archi.net.au>

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**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A YARN**  
(Extract from RIRDC Online, September 2002. To subscribe, email the editor, Murray Hansen at [murray.hansen@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:murray.hansen@rirdc.gov.au))

The Young Australian Rural Network (YARN) was recently launched by the Hon. Warren Truss, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The YARN website [www.yarn.gov.au](http://www.yarn.gov.au) is designed for 18-35's working in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, natural resource management, food processing and related industries to network and stay informed with events and information relevant to them.

YARN offers young people's networks and groups without their own website the chance to promote their activities and attract new members through their own mini-web page.

The site also features an events calendar, news, discussion forum and information about the achievements of the participants of the Young People in Rural Industries Program.

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PARTYline is the official newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance. Keep up to date with rural health policy information and good news stories on living and working in the rural health community. Available online on <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/partyline.htm> or receive a hard copy by emailing [michele@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:michele@ruralhealth.org.au)

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### NATIONAL REVIEW OF NURSING EDUCATION

There is already a severe shortage of nurses, and the latest figures show that on current trends there will be 30,000 fewer nurses than needed in four years time, as the exodus from the profession escalates. (Extract from ABC Health-Updates, 19 September 2002. The full ABC radio AM program report on the review is available at <http://abc.net.au/am/s678118.htm>)

In releasing the report, 'Our Duty of Care', the Commonwealth Education and Health Ministers said nursing is clearly an area where the Commonwealth must work closely with the States and Territories, which have primary responsibility for the pay and conditions of nurses, to ensure that quality care is available to all Australians in the coming years. Their statement is available at [http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/sep02/jmr91\\_160902.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/sep02/jmr91_160902.htm)

In response, Australia's peak national nursing bodies called on the Federal Government to immediately commit to the implementation of Recommendation 33 of the National Review of Nursing Education and announce funding for additional undergraduate nursing places in the 2003 academic year. Their statements are available at <http://www.anf.org.au/>

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### 20th NATIONAL ANNUAL CRANA CONFERENCE

The theme for the 20th National Annual CRANA conference is "From Outpost to Outback - the International Remote Area Nurse". With speakers from overseas and around Australia the program is packed with speakers from a variety of settings and a diversity of experiences. The Conference is to be held from 27-30 October at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg South Australia. For enquiries phone (08) 8953 5244

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### BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information [http://www.crana.org.au/pandp\\_psn.html](http://www.crana.org.au/pandp_psn.html)

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The "Australian Journal of Rural Health" is a refereed journal with a national and international reputation for quality scholarship. Its focus is multi-disciplinary and it includes articles of interest to general practitioners, nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, health administrators, universities and rural health units. Reduced rates apply to members of some organisations. For more information see <http://www.blackwell-science.com/ajr>

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HEALTH CAREER BOOK FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

The Federal Government recently launched a career health book for indigenous students. The book encourages Indigenous young people to take up careers in the health field. It was written by Kiarna Adams, a third year Indigenous medical student at the University of Western Australia. The book "No Shame Job" is available at <http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/careers/ciproducts.htm>. The full text of the statement by Education Minister Brendan Nelson is available at [http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/sep02/n174\\_180902.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/nelson/sep02/n174_180902.htm)

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From: Ron Smith <[ronsmith@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ronsmith@bigpond.net.au)>  
Subject: Aged Care Housing Report

An aged care housing Report surveying 5000 homes of older Victorians, good info for regional persons, available at <http://www.archicentre.com.au/AgedCareReport.pdf>

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Victorian Health Dept Extends Online Access Deal  
(Extract from THE 2002 UPDATE - AuNz Net and Information Industry Briefs, 21 September 2002. To subscribe send one e-mail to [acreed@netspace.net.au](mailto:acreed@netspace.net.au) with the words "Subscribe Update" in the subject line)

Victoria's Department of Human Services has paid over \$3 million to give online resources to all doctors and nurses in the health department.

The deal extends a previous two-year arrangement with Health Communication Network (HCN), which will provide software and databases for the Clinicians Health Channel.

The channel provides online access to information resources through computers located at wards and workstations. That includes online books, journals and databases that provide evidence-based information on treatment, drugs, guidelines and protocols for clinical care.

Australian Watchdog Tackles Health Site  
(Extract from THE 2002 UPDATE - AuNz Net and Information Industry Briefs, 28 September 2002)

An Australian Web site owner has been taken to court after the consumer commission alleged his site promoted dubious products whose claimed health benefits were non-existent.

Michael Desveaux, who runs an e-tail site at [www.transformation2012.com.au](http://www.transformation2012.com.au) , has been accused of misleading and deceptive conduct under Australia's Trade Practices Act.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) says the site's products, including water, juices, extracts, oxygen, metals and candles, produce none of the beneficial effects claimed.

Among the claims, according to the watchdog, are that products bought via the site can help cure such diseases and infections as AIDS, cancer, herpes, hepatitis, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, alcoholism and drug additions, dermatitis and immune diseases.

Web: <http://www.accc.gov.au>

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### MORTALITY ATLAS

The ABS will release Catalogue No 3318.0 Mortality Atlas, Australia, 1997 to 2000, on 3 October 2002.

This publication is designed to serve as a reference for users in interpreting causes of death in Australia. It presents, through the use of maps and commentary, standardised death rates for Statistical Divisions and Statistical Subdivisions in Australia for the period 1997 to 2000. Underlying and multiple causes of death are presented for the top 10 and other topical causes of death.

Further information at <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

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### 7th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 7th National Rural Health Conference is to be held at the Grand Chancellor in Hobart Tasmania from 1 - 4 March 2003. Registration for the Conference will be available in October 2002. This will include online registration for the first time.

The Conference website is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/seventhconf/seventhconf.htm> and includes information and a booking form on the exhibition.

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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](mailto: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](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 1,167 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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