

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 18 July 2003

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HEALTH INDUSTRY AND CONSUMERS IN LAST DITCH EFFORT TO RESCUE \$42b CARE AGREEMENTS

An unprecedented alliance of Australia's key health and consumer groups will hold a national summit from 17-19 August in a last ditch attempt to persuade the Federal, State and Territory Governments that Australia's health system requires urgent major reform.

National Health Care Summit convenor Professor John Dwyer said: "More Australians will get sick unnecessarily, more will die earlier than they should, and potentially billions of dollars will be wasted unless we undertake major health reform."

"The administrators of our public hospitals, the doctors, nurses and clinicians who provide care, and the public hospital users are all calling for the Australian Health Care Agreements (AHCA) between the Federal, State & Territory Governments to include new health reform commitments.

"As they stand, the \$42 billion Agreements that are due to be signed by 31 August are too focussed on hospital bed numbers when the emphasis should be on illness prevention strategies and developing a new model of 'continuous care'."

The forthcoming Health Summit will provide a major opportunity for groups to develop proposals for lasting and effective reform.

The full text of the statement is at <http://www.actu.asn.au/public/campaigns/savemedicare/lastditch.html>

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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> or receive a hard copy by emailing michele@ruralhealth.org.au

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FINAL REMINDER TO APPLY FOR COMMONWEALTH AGED CARE NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

I remind people from rural and regional areas that applications for Commonwealth Undergraduate Aged Care Nursing Scholarships close on Friday 25 July 2003, Federal Minister for Ageing Kevin Andrews said. Nurses currently working in rural and regional aged care services will also be invited to apply for the Aged Care Nursing Continuing Professional Development Scholarships, each valued at up to \$10,000. Applications for these scholarships close on 29 August 2003. Further information on Commonwealth Aged Care Nursing Scholarships is available from the Royal College of Nursing Australia, on (freecall) 1800 11 66 96 or by visiting their website at <http://www.rcna.org.au>

Mr Andrews' statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/ka/ka03187.htm>

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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 and rural 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_bcl.html

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RURAL AND REMOTE NURSES

The Federal Minister for Health, Senator the Hon. Kay Patterson will open the joint conference of the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA) and the Association for Australian Rural Nurses (AARN) to be held at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba NSW 21 – 24 September 2003.

Called Frontier to Frontier: looking back, moving forward, the conference will bring together nurses from across the country to explore the roles of rural and remote area nurses in health care delivery, and to discuss future challenges.

Other key speakers at the conference will include NSW MP Linda Burney, who is also a member of the Wiradjuri Nation and a long time Aboriginal Activist, Steve Morton from CSIRO, Mike Montgomery from the Wentworth Group, and Ruth Shank from the Country Women's Association.

Further information is at <http://www.aarn.asn.au/whatsnew/conf.htm>

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From: Cathy Gibson <Cathy.Gibson@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Forthcoming ARCHI Toolkit Seminars

ARCHI Toolkit Seminars:

21-22 August 2003. Clinical Decisions, Ethical challenges. Venue: Australis Noosa Lakes Resort, Hilton Terrace 'On the River', Noosaville Qld. For further information, please contact admin@archi.net.au or visit our website at http://www.archi.net.au.

25-26 September 2003, Tools, Techniques and Teams: driving innovations in quality and efficiency in hospitals, Sydney, NSW.

Call for papers - ARCHI Toolkit Seminars:

16-17 October 2003, Mental Health, Hospitals and Communities, Adelaide, SA - Submission of abstracts by 10 August 2003.

27-28 November 2003, Innovations in Skill Mix and Rostering in Hospitals, Sydney, NSW - Submission of abstracts by 10 September 2003.

04-05 December 2003, Innovations in Improving Information Flows Between Rural, Regional and Metropolitan Health Facilities, Ballarat, Vic - Submission of abstracts by 15 September 2003.

26 February 2004. Innovations in the Management and Clinical Care of Chronic and Complex Disease, Perth, WA - Submission of abstracts by 15 November 2003.

27 February 2004, Innovations in Sub Acute Care - Interface Between Aged Care and Acute Care, Perth, WA - Submission of abstracts by 15 November 2003.

25 March 2004, 2nd Annual Information Technology - Achieving Efficiencies in Clinical Management, Melbourne, VIC - submission of abstracts by 01 February 2004.

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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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Extract from ABC Health-Updates

(Health-Updates is a weekly alert about recent ABC health coverage now available online.

Subscription information is at <http://www.abc.net.au/health/maillinglist.htm>)

TEENAGE PREGNANCIES MORE PREVALENT IN RURAL AREAS (PM: 07/07/2003)

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2003/s896898.htm>

WHY SURGEONS HAVE DESERTED A COUNTRY TOWN (Stateline South Australia:

04/07/2003) <http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/sa/content/2003/s895326.htm>

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN NURSE (New Dimensions Health: 08/07/2003)

Jeannie Campbell is an Aboriginal Health Worker at the Ti Tree Community Health Centre, which looks after around 2,000 mainly Aboriginal people who live in the area. Each day, she negotiates a complex path between the science of her medical training and cultural beliefs, which make many

Indigenous people cautious of Western medicine.
http://www.abc.net.au/dimensions/dimensions_health/Transcripts/s897439.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>

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INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH WINS NEW CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Australia’s first Centre of Clinical Research Excellence dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, has been announced by the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Kay Patterson.

The Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, in partnership with Flinders University, will receive more than \$1.8 million over five years to establish the Centre. Senator Patterson said the centre would help train future leaders in Aboriginal community-controlled health research and find solutions to the health disadvantage facing Indigenous Australians.

The full text of Senator Patterson’s statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/kp/kp03126.htm>

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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 or use the eforum contribution box at the NRHA website, <http://www.ruralhealth.org.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.

This issue is going to 2,256 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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