

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 26 September 2003

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From: <ALLIEDHEALTH@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: 1st NSW Rural Allied Health Professionals Conference 'Sharing Innovations in Rural Allied Health'

NSW Health recognises that allied health services are a critical part of the NSW Health Workforce. The inaugural Conference will provide an opportunity for allied health professionals, health service managers, educational institutions and others to come together discuss the contribution of rural allied health professionals to the NSW health system, share valuable experiences and raise issues facing allied health practitioners and the services they deliver in rural and remote NSW.

The Conference will be held at the Carlton Crest Hotel in Sydney on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December 2003. For further information including registration and the preliminary program visit <http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au> or email [alliedhealth@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alliedhealth@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

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PARTYline Issue No.15 - OUT NOW. 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](mailto:michele@ruralhealth.org.au)

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From: Elizabeth Bok <liz.bok@flinders.edu.au>  
Subject: Suicide prevention Website

I would like to draw your attention to our project which is funded under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy and focuses on building community capacity for suicide prevention.

One strategy is our website which has been available since February, however we have just added a new database which will show all the nationally funded suicide prevention projects around the country, plus in due course projects funded from other sources.

This is the only publicly available source of this information and we have also set up a Bulletin Board so projects can share information and experience.

I would be pleased if you could publicise the website for us which will of great value to rural and remote workers. The address is [www.community-life.org.au](http://www.community-life.org.au)

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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](http://www.crana.org.au/pandp_bcl.html)

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From: Sue Gray <[hawa@iinet.net.au](mailto:hawa@iinet.net.au)>  
Subject: Advance Notice – HR Conference 2003

After the very successful "HR Conference 2002 – Setting the Sails for the Course Ahead" held at Scarborough on 7 & 8 November 2002, HAWA is once again organising the HR Conference in partnership with the Department of Health.

The "HR Conference 2003" will be held on Thursday and Friday, 6 & 7 November 2003 at Hotel Rendezvous, Observation City, Scarborough Beach - please note this in your diary now.

The HR Conference 2003 website <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrconference/hrconf2003> will be updated as information on registration details, the Peter Baldwin Memorial Award and the Conference Program become available.

Sue Gray  
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PO Box 196, Melville WA 6956  
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HR Conference 2003  
<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/hrconference/hrconf2003>

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## AIHW REPORTS

### AUSTRALIA’S SUPPLY OF DENTISTS “UNEVEN”

Practising dentists are unevenly distributed across Australia's states and territories, according to the latest report released by the AIHW's Dental Statistics and Research Unit based at the University of Adelaide.

“Dental Labour Force, Australia 2000” shows that Australia's dentist workforce has increased overall by just over 17% between 1994 and 2000, resulting in a 9% increase in the supply of dentists from 43 per 100,000 people in 1994 to 46.9 per 100,000 in 2000.

Dentist practising rates varied from 25.3 dentists per 100,000 population in Tasmania to 59.3 in the Australian Capital Territory. Substantial variation also existed across geographical regions: supply was much higher in capital cities overall (55.7 dentists per 100,000 population), compared with 31.4 for all other areas within the states and territories.

The AIHW statement is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2003/mr030918.html> and the full report at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9301>

### HEALTH EXPENDITURE AUSTRALIA 2001-02

“Health Expenditure Australia 2001-02” examines expenditure on health goods and services in Australia for 1991-92 to 2000-01 and presents preliminary estimates for 2001-02. It shows that Australia spent over \$66 billion on health in 2001-02, a rise of \$11 billion since 1999-00. This report presents expenditure estimates at the aggregate level; as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP); on a per person basis; by state; by comparison with selected OECD countries; and by source of funding - Commonwealth, other government and non-government. This report will be helpful to anyone interested in studying, analysing and comparing estimates of health expenditure in Australia.

The AIHW statement is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2003/mr030923.html> and the report at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9307>

The AIHW provides an email alert service on new publications – subscribe at [http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/subscribe\\_notices.html](http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/subscribe_notices.html)

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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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THE FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY OF GENERAL PRACTICE?

This important two day Summit, held in Canberra on 12 and 13 September, was hosted by the General Practice Representative Group (GPRG), consisting of representatives of the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP), Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA).

The Summit declaration is at [http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-5RN25Z/\\$file/180903%20-%20GP%20Summit%20-%20Declaration%20Actions.doc](http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-5RN25Z/$file/180903%20-%20GP%20Summit%20-%20Declaration%20Actions.doc)

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Extract from ABC Health-Updates

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

Information on how to subscribe can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/health/maillinglist.htm>)

FEATURE: HEALTH EDUCATION GOES BUSH

Living in the country and want to work in health? Once upon a time this meant leaving everything and moving to the big smoke to study. But as our new feature explains, things are changing. Find out about some of the alternative study options now available for rural Australians.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/regions/features/healthtrain/>

COUNTRY GP (George Negus Tonight: 16/09/2003)

The story of Heather Dalgety, a single Scottish doctor in Bourke, outback Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/gnt/health/Transcripts/s946971.htm>

THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MAP

What's the state of health in YOUR state? The Australian Health Map gives you the low-down on health in each state and territory in the country. With vital statistics, details about health resources and links to stories and transcripts across the ABC website, you can't afford not to have a look.

<http://www.abc.net.au/health/healthmap/default.htm>

ABORIGINAL HEALTH (Perspective: 24/09/2003)

Each year up to 40 per cent of Australia's Indigenous children will have developed a chronic ear infection causing hearing loss, about 20 per cent will have been infected with trachoma, others will have developed malnutrition, anaemia, pneumonia, and some will even suffer the highest rates of acute rheumatic heart disease in the world. The Aboriginal population is more likely to need health services, but evidence shows they are less likely to receive them than other Australians.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/perspective/stories/s951719.htm>

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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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**BUILDING MORE RESILIENT REGIONS**

The Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Regional Services, Wilson Tuckey MP, has said that "the key to building resilient regional communities was to lift a community's social capital". Mr Tuckey's statement is available at [http://www.ministers.dotars.gov.au/wt/releases/2003/September/wt69\\_2003.htm](http://www.ministers.dotars.gov.au/wt/releases/2003/September/wt69_2003.htm)

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**REGISTER NOW FOR REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FORUM**

People interested in the delivery of telecommunications services to regional, rural and remote Australia now and into the future are urged to register for the Regional Communications Forum 2003.

The key theme of this year's Forum, to be held in Canberra from 7--9 October, is the series of programs and initiatives being put in place by the Australian Government in response to the independent Regional Telecommunications (Estens) Inquiry.

The third day of the Forum will focus on Indigenous telecommunications and in particular the Australian Government's \$8.3 million Telecommunications Action Plan for Remote Indigenous Communities (TAPRIC), which includes measures such as computer hardware packages and an innovative multimedia initiatives to support and encourage communities in the use of Indigenous languages.

This is an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the most recent developments and trends to emerge in Australia's telecommunications marketplace. Registration forms and more information about the Forum are available online at <http://www.dcita.gov.au/rcf> or via email on [rcf@dcita.gov.au](mailto:rcf@dcita.gov.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](mailto: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](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au).

This issue is going to 2,265 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, use the "sign up" box at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>. The archive of the newsletter is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> under "Publications & News".