

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 19 December 2003

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The National SARRAH Conference, “Walking together, side by side” - A Conference for Rural and Remote Allied Health Professionals

26 – 28 August 2004

Alice Springs Convention Centre

Call for papers now open – <http://www.sarrah.org.au> (under “Conferences”)

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PARTYline Issue No.16 - 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

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AIHW REPORTS

“Are All Australians Gaining Weight? Differentials in Overweight and Obesity Among Adults, 1989-90 to 2001”

Almost 17% of Australian adults aged 20 years and over were obese in 2001, and a further 34% were overweight but not obese. Women in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic group had nearly double the rate of obesity of those in the most advantaged group (23% versus 12%). The situation was similar for men in the same two groups (20% and 13%). Indigenous Australians are almost twice as likely to be obese than other Australians (these results exclude those living in remote areas). Adults living outside the major cities showed higher rates of overweight than other Australians. The AIHW press release is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2003/mr031210.html> and the full report is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9652>

“Nursing Labour Force 2002”

After years of steady falls, Australia's nursing supply stabilised in 2001 at 1,024 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurses per 100,000 population in 2001, the same as in 1999. Preliminary nurse registration data for 2002 showed an upturn in nursing numbers could be on the way. The distribution of nurses matched that of the general population, although very remote areas had a lower proportion with 959 nurses per 100,000 population. The AIHW statement is available at

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2003/mr031217.html> and the full report at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9691>

“Cervical Screening in Australia 2000-2001 and 1999-2000”

Although cervical cancer incidence and death rates have continued to decline in all areas of Australia, women in the target age group from remote locations experienced a relatively high mortality rate from cervical cancer - 3 deaths per 100,000 compared with 2.3 deaths per 100,000 women in metropolitan areas. And the cervical cancer death rate for Indigenous women in the target age group was more than four times the corresponding rate in non-Indigenous women - 11.4 deaths per 100,000 women compared with 2.5 deaths per 100,000 women. The AIHW statement is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media/2003/mr031219.html> and the full report at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm?type=detail&id=9732>

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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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From: Public Health Association of Australia <phaa@phaa.net.au>
Subject: Course Advert - Social Determinants of Indigenous Health, Darwin

Short Course 8 - 12 March 2004
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darwin, N.T.
Social Determinants of Indigenous Health, Darwin

This five day short course will systematically explore the impact of the social environment on the health of Indigenous Australians.

The full flyer is available at the Menzies School of Health Research website <http://www.menzies.edu.au> - go to Education, Short Courses, Flyer Social Determinants of Health.

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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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GOVT CLAIMS RURAL DOCTORS BENEFIT FROM MEDICAL INDEMNITY DECISION

The Government’s further medical indemnity package includes funding of \$13 million over four years for funding direct to insurers for 75 per cent of the difference between premiums for procedural GPs working in rural areas and those for non-procedural GPs in similar circumstances. The media statement by Health Minister Tony Abbott is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/ta/abb097.htm>

The Australian Divisions of General Practice, however, said that the package does little for the GP working at the coal face. The ADGP statement is available at http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/10618.pdf. The AMA cautiously welcomed the package as a positive response to the crisis but said that concerns about the long-term viability of Australia’s medical indemnity system remain. The AMA statement is available at <http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-5UB57A>

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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. AUGUST 2003 ISSUE NOW AVAILABLE. For more information see <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/ajr/>

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NATIONAL REVIEW OF TELE COUNSELLING AND WEB COUNSELLING SERVICES

This Review is the first nationwide study to examine telephone and web counselling sectors in Australia. The Review has produced a comprehensive overview of telephone and web-based counselling services in Australia, their role in the health service delivery sector, and of the issues and challenges they face in the future. The review focuses on national or comprehensive services that are provided at no or token cost to users, and are provided directly or indirectly by Government or non-government, not-for-profit organisations. Copies of the review are available at <http://www.mentalhealth.gov.au/resources/reports/counsel.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 2,042 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”.