

Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 26 March 2004

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 26 March 2004

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RURAL ORGANISATIONS UNITE TO BRING GOOD HEALTH TO THE BUSH

The National Farmers' Federation, Rural Doctors Association of Australia, Australian Local Government Association, Country Women's Association and Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia came together in collaboration on a ten point plan aimed at bringing good health to Australia's regional, rural and remote communities. The statement is available at <http://www.rdaa.com.au/default.cfm?action=docviewer&DocID=147> and the ten-point plan is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/GOOD_HEALTH_TO_RURAL_COMMUNITIES_final.pdf. The speech by Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson launching the statement is at http://www.ministers.dotars.gov.au/ja/speeches/2004/AS05_2004.htm

ABC coverage of the announcement is at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/s1072961.htm> and News Ltd coverage at http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,9057560%255E421,00.html

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8th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

"Central to health: sustaining well-being in remote and rural Australia", 10-13 March 2005, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Call for Abstracts and website opening in April. Information at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service
Lifeline's Just ask is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit <http://www.justask.org.au>

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SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND REMOTE PROCEDURAL GPs

GPs in rural and remote areas will now be eligible for additional funding of up to \$5,000 a year to help them continue providing procedural services to their local communities, according to Health Minister Tony Abbott.

The Department of Health and Ageing, in consultation with GP organisations, has identified the types of procedures that will be supported through PIP, which will include delivering babies, abdominal surgery, gynaecological surgery, endoscopy and anaesthetics.

Mr Abbott's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb034.htm>

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CALLING ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE 2005 AGED CARE NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Past recipients of Australian Government Aged Care Nursing Scholarships joined the Minister for Ageing, Julie Bishop, to encourage students from rural and regional Australia to apply for the next scholarship round. The full text of the Minister's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/jb/bis037.htm>

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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
Information available at <http://www.sarrah.org.au> (under "Conferences")

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FUNDING BOOST FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Health care for Australians in rural communities will be improved by a funding boost of more than \$3 million to 21 private hospitals. To ensure communities retain access to private health services, the government has provided the money to revitalise 21 rural private hospitals and one hospice. The Regional Health Strategy includes a range of programs to improve health and aged care services for people living in rural and remote regions of Australia. The Government's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb030.htm>

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PARTYline Issue No.17 - 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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From: Rhonda Galbally
Subject: Communities in Control Conference, Melbourne, 7-8 June 2004

Conference brochure available at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/files/Communitiesincontrol.pdf>

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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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Virtual Roadshow, 'Treating Children with Asthma – getting it right', Wednesday 21st April 2004, 7.30 – 8.30 pm AEST

Gain an insight into the latest thinking on treating children with asthma. The Virtual Roadshow is an online presentation with an interactive Q&A session, run directly from a computer via the Internet. CPD points will be available for participation.

Facilitated by Dr Ron Tomlins, Chairman of the National Asthma Council, there will also be an opportunity to pose any burning questions live to these panellists during the Roadshow:

* Professor Nicholas Glasgow, Director, Australian Primary Care Health Research Institute (APHRCI), The Australian National University, Canberra

Dr Dominic Fitzgerald, paediatric respiratory and sleep physician * and Deputy Head of the Division of Academic and General Medicine at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney, and

* Dr Amanda Barnard, General Practitioner, from Claremont, Western Australia

Topics for discussion include: Inhaled corticosteroids and switching, Types of medication pathways, The importance of lung function testing – case study, Adherence – the key driver for good asthma management, and How it is done in general practice – case study.

For three nights following the live Roadshow on Wednesday 21 April, you can ask further online questions from the panel. The complete Roadshow will also be available for a period of three months to be accessed at your convenience.

You can log into our mini site for more details and to express your interest in participation at <http://www.NationalAsthma.org.au/roadshow>

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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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From: Ronald McCoy, Dr.
Subject: RACGP Research Grants and Awards Announced

As part of its commitment to quality general practice research, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has announced the opening of applications for our successful Research Grants and Awards Program for 2004.

Professor Michael Kidd, RACGP President said "In 2003, the RACGP awarded research grants and scholarships to general practitioners and registrars valued in excess of \$230,000. This money is being used to support new and emerging general practitioner researchers to conduct studies in primary health care that will ultimately benefit all Australians.

"In addition to the annual grants from previous years, the College is pleased to announce the introduction of two new general practice research grants in 2004," said Professor Kidd.

"The General Practice Informatics Scholarship and the RACGP Indigenous Health Award will be offered for the first time in 2004. Both of these new grants emphasise the College's commitment to building the research capacity of Australian general practitioners and reflect our mission to support new and emerging researchers." Said Professor Kidd.

Application forms can be obtained by emailing research@racgp.org.au and will be available from the RACGP website at <http://www.racgp.org.au>. The closing date for applications is 10 May 2004. Further information for applications can be obtained at this email address or by contacting Dr Catherine Lees (National Research Coordinator) on 03 8699 0481 or visiting the RACGP website at www.racgp.org.au/research

