

2004" and dinner and entertainment at the National Press Club.

For more information and to register go to <http://www.aihw.gov.au/conference/ah04> or contact Felicity Harrigan on (02) 6244 1011, or conference2004@aihw.gov.au

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

NEW SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, has announced sweeping reforms to the way in which services will be delivered to Indigenous Australians. The Government has decided that the ATSIC Board of Commissioners will be abolished. Legislation will be introduced as soon as possible with a view to the new arrangements being in place from 1 July 2004. The ATSIC Board will not be replaced with another elected structure but a national Indigenous Council will be appointed on the basis of merit to interact with Government and provide Indigenous specific advice and advocacy. Senator Vanstone's statement is at <http://www.atsia.gov.au/media/media04/v04012.htm>

In response, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said that mainstreaming doesn't work and that any future arrangements for Aboriginal people must put in place mechanisms whereby Aboriginal people control the decision making process. The NACCHO statement is available at <http://www.naccho.org.au/main1.html>

+ + + + +

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>

+ + + + +

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO DIVISIONS OF GENERAL PRACTICE REVIEW

The Australian Government has released its response to the review of the role of Divisions of General Practice. The Divisions of General Practice are doctors working with doctors to make general practice more effective. The Government will maintain the current level of funding to all Divisions over the next three years but will provide innovative Divisions with more resources for community health care projects. The full text of Health Minister Tony Abbott's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb043.htm>

The ADGP response was that the Government's expectations exceed funding. The ADGP statement is at http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=MEDIA&page_id=2387

+ + + + +

From: zkulesza@ozemail.com.au
Subject: Awards

We are calling for nominations for the two awards below (nominations close 28 May 2004):

AHA Baxter Healthcare National Innovation Awards 2004

The Annual AHA-Baxter Healthcare National Innovation Awards are awarded to organisations for innovative service development within the Australian healthcare industry. To be eligible, organisations must be a member of AHA or one of its State Associations [Victorian Healthcare Association, Health Services Association of NSW, healthcare Association of Western Australia]. Nominations for 2004 are being called. More details are at http://www.aushealthcare.com.au/news/news_details.asp?nid=2540

AHA Hudson Workforce Awards 2004

Applications are being called for the inaugural AHA-Hudson Workforce Awards to be awarded for improvements in quality and health outcomes that result from an innovative approach to workforce reform and human resource management. To be eligible, organisations must be a member of AHA or one of its State Associations [Victorian Healthcare Association, Health Services Association of NSW, Healthcare Association of Western Australia]. More details at http://www.aushealthcare.com.au/news/news_details.asp?nid=2746

+ + + + +

From: Megan McNicholl
Subject: New book "talks up" regional Queensland

A book just launched in Queensland challenges rural Australians to "talk up" the benefits of living in regional Australia, to help end the shortage of health professionals in the bush. How often have you heard small communities described as 'struggling', 'disadvantaged' or 'in crisis'. Rural health practitioner Janie Dade-Smith says the way we talk about rural and remote communities does nothing to improve health in smaller communities. The terms are used too often and more positive language needs to be used if rural and remote areas are to improve their self-esteem and attract health professionals.

In her latest book, that looks at Australia's Rural and Remote Health from a social justice perspective, Janie points out that there are so many wonderful things about rural and remote communities, that there's reason to use much more positive language.

Janie is also critical of the way rural health is dealt with, and says there needs to be a grassroots approach if the situation is to

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".