

Health plays an important role in the reconciliation process and in recognition of National Reconciliation Week, the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) and the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) are calling on the Australian Government to increase their highly successful nursing scholarships and target Indigenous people specifically so that more are encouraged to choose nursing as a career.

The full text of the statement is at http://www.anf.org.au/news_media/Media_2004/news_press_040526.html

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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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Extract from AMWAC/AHWAC "Health Workforce Intelligence", May 2004
(Contact at healthworkforce@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

Training and flexibility the key to retaining rural doctors. News-Medical.net, 14 May 2004.

According to a report of a three-year study of more than 1100 rural doctors in Australia by Jo Wainer, School of Rural Health, Monash University, three-quarters of rural GPs expressed satisfaction with rural practice. Jo Wainer said Federal Government programs to encourage medical students and young doctors to experience rural practice before becoming a rural doctor were supported by her findings that intended length of stay in rural practice was associated with prior experience in rural practice. She said, "Based on this strategy alone women intend to stay an additional 3.8 years in rural practice and men an additional 2.9 years". This was in addition to the average stay in rural practice of 11 years for women and 10 for men. Jo Wainer said, "The most important strategy for contentment and satisfaction with rural practice was the same for men and women and that was about structuring their medical practice to reflect the way they wanted to work. This could include flexibility in on-call and practice hours". The study also found that since the National Rural General Practice Study in 1996, the percentage of rural doctors who reported feeling appropriately trained for rural practice had increased significantly (66% for women, up from 51%; 72% for men, up from 68%). The report has been endorsed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

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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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Annual Conference of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses, 1st-3rd of September 2004, at Coffs Harbour - BreakFree Aanuka Beach Resort. Information at <http://www.indiginet.com.au/catsin/>

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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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GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS HELP IMPROVE INDIGENOUS EYE HEALTH

The Australian Government has released the Review of the Implementation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Program as well as its response. The existing network of 34 regional eye health coordinators working in Indigenous primary health care services across Australia has been central to improvements made under the program. The review, undertaken by the Centre for Remote Health in Alice Springs, has recommended integrating eye health into primary health care. Health Minister Tony Abbott's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/ta/abb071.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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AGED CARE TRAINING VIA SATELLITE

Anglican Homes and the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation

Agency have arranged for 100 aged care homes across Australia to tune in to satellite television for six training programs on caring for people with dementia.

In a statement congratulating the agency, the Minister for Ageing, Julie Bishop, said an adequate supply of qualified, well informed nurses and other aged care workers was essential to ensuring residents of aged care homes continued to receive the high quality care they deserved. Training personal care staff via satellite technology is one of the innovative Australian Government projects that help counter some of the barriers to training for aged care workers in rural and remote regions of Australia, she said. The full text of the statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2004/jb/bis080.htm>

