

"Working together for a sustainable urgent care system: a case study from south eastern Australia"
Effective emergency services are a high priority in our rural communities. They rely on the different professions and local and regional organisations all working together. What happens when they are threatened? This article presents a positive case-report arising out of just this scenario. <http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=312>

"Preliminary guidelines for the implementation of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approaches in rural, remote and Indigenous communities in Australia"
How do internationally promoted models of care, not necessarily designed by or for rural, remote or indigenous communities, translate to our specific contexts? A recent conference tried to address this issue in relation to community based rehabilitation. Would their conclusions be similar to yours? <http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=291>

"Prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions, associated pain and disability and the barriers to managing these conditions in a rural, Australian Aboriginal community"
Living with chronic pain appears to be a common experience for a rural indigenous population in Australia. Read this article to find out why, and what may be done about it.
<http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=230>

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REPORT ON INDIGENOUS PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE DELIVERY

This project developed a generic model for Indigenous palliative care and its guiding principles from the insights of Indigenous people and health care workers interviewed throughout Northern Territory. The model was affirmed through the democratic process of national peer-review by experts in Indigenous health. The generic model stands as a base line of information to be applied by service providers to their own unique circumstances. As every service is different, there will be great variation in the detail used in the specifically developed model for each service. There will be great diversity on such issues as needs, obstacles, resources, geography, populations and service aims. Such diversity will be reflected in different confirmation of factors underpinning the model development for each service. Thus, the view is of a 'Living Model' – the generic model providing a firm foundation which can be applied to the needs of the plethora of services involved in providing Indigenous palliative care. The full report, Executive Summary and Companion booklet for this study is available at <http://www.mcgrathresearch.net.au/Indigenous%20Palliative%20Care.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.bushcrisisline.org.au>

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From: Kerry Doblo
Subject: PDA Conference

PDA's @ Work - the PDA / Mobile Conference for Health
20th October, 2004, Brisbane

This one day conference is an informative, interactive and hands on introduction to the use of PDA's (personal digital assistant's) in the health field. Further information at <http://www.medinfotech.com.au>, email: mobile@orgaus.com.au
Contact: Renee Henshaw, Organisers Australia, ph (07) 33710333

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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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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB
(with thanks to "Google Alert" at <http://www.googlealert.com/>)

CRaNHR ...strengthening rural health through research
An organizational member of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research. A member of the Canadian Rural Health Research Society. ...
<http://cranhr.laurentian.ca/>

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PARTYline Issue No.18 - 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: Susan Ball
Subject: VicHealth's Arts for Health program

VicHealth's Mental Health & Wellbeing Unit has just announced new guidelines as part of its Arts for Health program. The program aims to promote mental health through creating opportunities for access and participation in arts activity for people experiencing disadvantage due to geographic or socio-economic circumstances.

Australians should be one of the nation's number one health priorities," said Sue McAlpin, Chairperson of the NRHA. "Access and equity issues to dental services should be looked at for all people in rural and remote Australia."

Changes to Medicare alone are not the answer to this challenge. Almost 75 percent of GPs never treat an Aboriginal patient. A major part of the new program should therefore be delivered through dentists, oral hygienists and medical officers employed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Rural and remote areas are particularly short of dentists and oral hygienists and targeted dental workforce initiatives are badly needed.

Mr McCartney and Ms McAlpin called on the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader to use the Election Campaign to make Aboriginal health a national priority. Poor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander oral health is symptomatic of the appalling health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians overall.

"A valuable start can be made now with this more specific challenge to address dental health".