

Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 17 December 2004

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 17 December 2004

In this issue:

- * 8th National Rural Health Conference
- * Rural General Practice Structures – Practice Made Perfect?
- * ARCAB/ADCA Rural Health Scholarships
- * AIHW Publications
- * Poor Statistics on Indigenous Health Emphasise Urgent Need for Action
- * Extract from ABC Updates
- * Rural Health on the Web
- * Articles in "Rural and Remote Health"
- * Announcing New 2005 Plan and Evaluate Health Aged Community Care Workshop
- * Income Distribution
- * Animated Population Pyramid Launched on ABS Website
- * Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer
- * Nice 2005 calendar - \$682.00

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8th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE Alice Springs, 10-13 March 2005

Alcohol and Other Drugs at the 8th Conference

There will be a major stream at the Conference on issues relating to alcohol and other drugs in remote and rural areas. It is being run by the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council (ADCA) and the Australian Rural Centre for Addictive Behaviours, in collaboration with the Alliance and with special support from the Department of Health and Ageing. There will be a pre-Conference event on Thursday 10 March, a workshop on Friday 11, a split plenary session on Saturday 12, and three concurrent speakers on Sunday 13.

Keynote Speakers in the split Plenary session are expected to be Dr Alex Wodak, Director of Alcohol and Drug Service at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney; Coralie Ober and Carla Schlesinger from Statewide Services in the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Service; and a leading researcher from the National Drug Research Institute.

A special scholarship scheme has been put in place for rural health workers who are currently dealing with alcohol, other drugs or addictive behavioural issues as a significant part of their work, to assist their attendance at the 8th Conference. Applications to close on 20 December. The application form is at www.arcab.org.au

Keynote Speakers

Peter Sutton has confirmed his position as a Keynote Speaker. Peter is an ARC scholar at The South Australian Museum and the University of Adelaide. His latest book is *Native Title in Australia: An Ethnographic Perspective*, published by CUP.

Also confirmed are Dr Ruth McNair from Melbourne University, who will be reporting on aspects of Australian work on Inter-Professional Education for health, and Megan McNicholl, community advocate for remote education and Chair of Rural Education Forum Australia.

Arts in Health

The biennial National Rural Health Conferences have consistently promoted the use of arts for communication of health messages (eg through theatre, painting and drawing) and as a health-promoting activity and a means for building social capital in remote and rural communities. The Alliance is investing again in arts in health at the Alice Springs Conference. The featured performers will be from Central Australia and will include Drum Atweme, Circus Us, Franky Janganpa and the Janganpa Dancers, Al Bethune, the Alexandria Quartet, the Desert Rose Dancers and the Ntaria Ladies Choir. The Warren H Williams band will play for the Dinner-Dance.

Bargain: nice calendar

We've had a number of positive comments about the Alliance calendar for 2005 and even requests for extra copies. We haven't been able to meet all these however because we plan to include a copy in the satchel for delegates in Alice Springs. By 10 March you will have missed the January picture of the Indigenous kids in their (supervised) 'swimming hole' ("The voice of the rural and remote child is often unheard and the Alliance advocates for their needs. This is not only a social justice issue for the child but one of the best possible investments in the future health of Australia."). You will also have missed February's galahs ("Access to health services should be determined only by health need and not by ability to pay. It is unacceptable that poorer Australians and those with less access to services are up to five times more likely to die of a preventable disease than their wealthier compatriots.")

After December, when Early Bird closes, the calendar in your satchel will cost you \$880.00 (less for friends).

Pre- and Post-Conference events

Much is expected of the eight pre-Conference meetings and the two (so far) post-Conference ones. On Thursday 10 March are events of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Rural Pharmacy Australia, Services for Rural and Remote Allied Health, the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia, the Rural Doctors' Association of Australia and ACRRM, the Australian College of Health Service Executives, the Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agency Group (Weds. 9) and Rural Education Forum Australia (Weds. 9). The Alliance itself is holding a smaller Ways to the Future meeting on Monday 11 March, and the Australian Society for HIV Medicine is holding an Update Seminar for General Practitioners and Health Care Providers on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections the same day.

Travel and Accommodation

Book your travel and accommodation early to take advantage of the specially discounted Conference airfares being offered by Travel Makers – anthony@travelmakers.com.au or <http://www.travelmakers.com.au>

Full Conference Program

The full Conference Program is on the website and includes the concurrent papers, keynote speakers and workshops. There is also information there about the pre-Conference meetings. We hope you can join us in Alice Springs

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 ABC Updates
(Subscribe can be found at <http://www.abc.net.au/health/maillinglist.htm>)

Bush Telegraph: Farm Safety <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/farmsafety/>

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

Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative Website
The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative intends to be a catalyst for regional ... and creative force on behalf of rural communities and rural health. ...
<http://www.rwhc.com/home/home.aspx>

Muskie School of Public Service
Established in 1992, the Maine Rural Health Research Center draws on the ...
Rural health is one of the primary areas of research and policy analysis ...
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/ihp/ruralhealth/>

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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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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands: development, delivery and evaluation of a training programme for Aboriginal health workers to promote the musculoskeletal health of Indigenous people living in a rural community'
Rural health professionals often have to find ways of bridging different cultural perspectives in order to improve health outcomes. This interesting article shows how sport was chosen as an effective link to enable treatment of chronic musculoskeletal pain in an Australian Indigenous community. <http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=281>

'Preliminary evidence from Queensland that rural clinical schools have a positive impact on rural intern choices '
Does educating medical students in rural communities increase the number of junior doctors working in those same communities? This preliminary report provides further evidence that the answer is - yes! <http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=340>

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From: Myra Read
Subject: Announcing New 2005 Plan and Evaluate Health Aged Community Care Workshop

When? Thursday 17 February (9am - 5pm) and Friday 18 February 2005 (9am - 4pm)

Where? The workshop will be held at the Northern Sydney Education Centre,
Macquarie Hospital, Wicks Road, North Ryde

Who should attend? Those who would benefit from the course include:
- Project Managers and Co-ordinators engaged in the development, planning and/or evaluation of a Health, Aged Care, or Community-based service or program
- Health, Aged Care, or Community Managers required to account for the effectiveness or appropriateness of their service or program.

What does the workshop consist of? This workshop provides participants with a systematic method for planning and evaluating health aged or community care programs. The two components are inherently related. If you know how a program should be planned and developed, then you will understand how to evaluate one - and vice versa.

For more information on Workshop Content, phone Rod O'Connor on (02) 9555 9916 or email rod@RodOConnorAssoc.com

Fee. The cost of workshop attendance including meals is \$950 (incl GST).

Register online at <http://www.achse.org.au/nsw> at Upcoming Events.

To discuss registration, phone Myra Read on 02 9805-0431

ACHSE organises this event for Rod O'Connor & Associates. It has no control over the content or format of this Program.

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PARTYline Issue No.19 - 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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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

There are considerable differences between the incomes recorded in capital cities in Australia compared to those earned elsewhere according to the ABS publication "Household Income and Income Distribution 2002-03". At the national level, mean incomes in the capital cities were 20% above those in the balance of state, and in each state (separate information is not available for the NT and ACT) the capital city mean incomes were above those in the balance of state. The largest difference recorded was for NSW where the capital city income was 31% above the mean income across the rest of the state. The smallest difference recorded was for Tasmania where the capital city income was 6% above the rest of the state. Further information is at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/b06660592430724fca2568b5007b8619/5f4bb49c975c64c9ca256d6b00827adb!OpenDocument>

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ANIMATED POPULATION PYRAMID LAUNCHED ON ABS WEB SITE

An on-line illustration of the impact of declining fertility since the 1970's, increasing longevity and the ageing of the population as baby boomers approach retirement was launched on the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site. Australia's population continues to age due to sustained low levels of fertility and increasing life expectancy, according to ABS figures. The median age of the Australian population has increased 5.9 years over the last two decades. See <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/home/population%20pyramid%20preview>

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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.

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 2,080 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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Nice 2005 calendar - \$682.00

If you don't yet have a copy of the 2005 NRHA calendar, fear not.

Bargain prices still apply. You can still get one for \$682 if you buy this month. (Even less for students, and for friends of the Alliance.)

It will be in your Conference satchel at the 8th National Rural Health Conference. In Alice Springs, 10-13 March 2005.

You will also be able to hear and see views on remote and rural health from 90 concurrent session speakers, 22 Keynote speakers, and posters.

There are Conference workshops on chronic disease and aged care. And a strong alcohol and other drugs stream.

The full program is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

It is only every second year and its location this time in The Centre means there is a focus on remote issues and Indigenous health.

All your registration can be done on-line – including for the eight pre-conference events.

And on-line you will find a link to Travel Makers, the Conference agents, who can book you accommodation and the best available airfare.

If you need a more personal touch, email conference@ruralhealth.org.au