Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 1 July 2005

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 1 July 2005

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From: Clair North
Subject: Call for Subsidy Applications to Join The Rural Health Education Foundation's Satellite Network

The Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) has a new round of subsidies available for rural and remote health organisations that wish to join the RHEF's Rural Health Satellite Network.

This network currently consists of more than 590 sites in every state and territory of Australia. A 'site' means a location with satellite reception dish and decoder that is properly working and is properly configured to receive broadcasts over the RHEF Satellite Network.

Each site enables medical and health professionals to view RHEF satellite health and medical educational television broadcasts. View our upcoming program timetable or a list of our previous programs.

With support provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DHA), the Foundation is now expanding its network and calls for applications for subsidy from qualifying organisations. Each application to become an RHEF site will be individually evaluated, and will depend on the site size and medical services located in and around the community. In many cases RHEF will be able to offer full or partial funding for each new site developed in the 2005/2006 financial year.

Applications for this second round of funding will close on Monday 1 August 2005.

For further information about the requirements, responsibilities and opportunities of being an RHEF satellite site, please go to http://www.rhef.com.au/news/050621/050621.html or ring Belinda on 1800 646 015 (freecall) or email her at operations@rhef.com.au

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From: Ann.Bazeos@health.gov.au
Subject: Managing Pain Using Self-Management Approaches: Evidence and Implementation

The Managing Pain Using Self-Management Approaches: Evidence and Implementation half-day Workshop is being hosted by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing’s Sharing Health Care Initiative on 19 August 2005 in Sydney. The Workshop is to provide the latest research and evidence for Chronic Condition Self-Management in Australia and internationally. Cost $100. Information / registration contact: DC Conferences,
Phone: (02) 9954 4400. Website: http://www.dcconferences.com.au/pinp2005

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From: Clair North
Subject: “Taking Action to Prevent Diabetes” Tuesday 12 July 2005 - Rural Health Education Foundation

This broadcast focuses on the role GPs and other primary health care providers can play in the primary prevention, health promotion and early detection of Type 2 diabetes. It covers appropriate case detection and early diagnosis methods. Who should be tested for undiagnosed Type 2 diabetes? How should case detection and diagnosis testing for Type 2 diabetes be performed and how often should it be performed? It also covers the latest evidence for key modifiable risk factors such as diet, exercise and weight control.

Program information can be found at http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/317/317.html
Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email rhef@rhef.com.au or telephone (02) 6232-5480.

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From: RPA@health.gov.au
Subject: Rural Private Access (RPA) Program

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking funding applications from providers of privately insurable health services and other interested parties currently delivering or wanting to deliver privately insurable health services to rural and remote areas of Australia. These areas are within the Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia categories 2-5 (accessible to very remote).

The Rural Private Access (RPA) Program was announced in the 2004-2005 Budget as a refocus of the Bush Nursing, Small Community and Regional Private Hospitals Program.
The aim of the RPA Program is to assist the viability of private rural hospitals and support and increase the range of privately insurable health services in rural, regional and remote Australia.

The total funding available for the Second Funding Round is approximately $10 million. Funding of individual projects will be up to a maximum of $500,000.

The Department is interested in receiving applications to develop innovative approaches to:
- sustain, establish or expand privately insurable health services;
- recruit/retain health and/or allied health professionals providing insurable health services; and/or
- encourage the development of multidisciplinary practices for insurable health services.

Projects funded under the RPA Program can be undertaken over a number of years but must be completed by 1 May 2008. Funding for all projects will be one-off and non-recurrent.
Applications close on 29 July 2005. No extensions will be granted.

To obtain a copy of the application kit, please contact the RPA Program Project Officer on telephone: (02) 6289 3694, fax: (02) 6289 9295, email: rpa@health.gov.au or visit the Department of Health and Ageing Internet Site: http://www.health.gov.au/tenders

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EDITOR - AJRH

The Journal:
The Australian Journal of Rural Health, published by Blackwell Publishing Asia (BPA), is the official journal of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), the Association for Australian Rural Nurses, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health, and the Council for Remote Area Nurses of Australia.

The Editor:
The Board of Management seeks to appoint an Honorary Editor who is committed to advancing the health of rural Australians through publication and distribution of research and scholarly articles dealing with rural health issues in Australia and internationally. The Editor will maintain the highest standards of scholarly publication with an emphasis on practical issues confronting rural health practitioners, educators, administrators, policy-makers, and health science students.

The role:
The Editor receives all submitted articles, allocates them to reviewers, makes publishing recommendations based on these reviews, and works closely with BPA, the publisher, and the Journal's owner, the NRHA. There is a considerable liaison role in promoting the Journal and its mission, and in attracting articles.

Essential qualifications:
The successful applicant will have experience and qualifications in one or more of the following: health care, rural health, health policy, education, journalism, and professional publishing. They will have a demonstrated commitment to rural health.

Honorarium:
The position is honorary. Administrative assistance, or an amount for administration, is available.

Term of appointment:
Three years with the right to apply for a further term of two years. Commencement in early 2006 or by negotiation.

Applications:
To ajrh@ruralhealth.org.au or 02 6285 4660 by the end of October 2005.

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From: Melinda.Clark@health.gov.au
Subject: Healthy For Life Quality Improvement Facilitators - Release of RFT

As you may be aware in May 2005, a new budget measure - Healthy For Life was announced by the Australian Government. This initiative will provide $102.4 million over four years to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and children, enhance the quality of life for people with a chronic condition and, over time, reduce the
incidence of adult chronic disease.

The link below will provide further information about Healthy for Life.
http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/health-budget2005-hbudget-hfact5.htm

As part of the infrastructure to support the implementation of Healthy for Life the Department of Health and Ageing will be establishing a Departmental Panel for a Panel fo Quality Improvement Facilitators to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services. The Department wishes to advise that the Request for Tender (RFT 259/0405) to establish this panel has been released on AusTender and advertised
in the The Australian and the West Australian on 2 July 2005 and the National Indigenous Times on 7 July 2005.

Tender documentation can also be obtained through AusTender at
https://www.tenders.gov.au/federal/shared/summarylist.cfm?p_category=current
or the Department's website at
http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/rft2590405
The closing date for tenders is 2pm on 26 July 2005 and late tenders cannot
be accepted.

The contact person for all enquiries relating to the Request For Tender is
Melinda Clark - phone number (02) 6289 5267 or e-mail at
healthyforlife@health.gov.au

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PARTYline May 2005 Edition 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 at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine or receive a hard copy by emailing partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

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From: Clair North
Subject: Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) NEW Timetable - July to November 2005

RHEF has released its confirmed schedule of accredited satellite television broadcasts for the period July to November 2005. Over this period there are 10 programs that can be viewed on release usually on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, with repeats during Friday daytime on the RHEF satellite system. All programs can be viewed any time afterwards via web-streaming on their website. Information about all programs, times and access can be found by following this link http://www.rhef.com.au/timetable/timetable.html.

Scheduled programs July to November:
Tues 5 July - A program on “Dermatology” broadcast by WACRRM
Tues 12 July - Taking Action to Prevent Diabetes
Tues 26 July - Paediatric Gastroenteritis
Tues 9 August - Post-streptococcal Renal Disease
Tues 30 August - Maternal and Infant Care (Aboriginal* Health)
Tues 13 Sept - Type 1 Diabetes
Tues 27 Sept - “Growing Healthy Aboriginal* Kids” The Early Years: 1-5
Tues 18 Oct - Immunisation Update
Tues 15 Nov - Colorectal Cancer: Screening

For more information or updates on programs, go to the Foundation's website http://www.rhef.com.au or contact the Foundation at rhef@rhef.com.au or (02) 62325480

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From: Karen Roberts
Subject: Bridging the Gaps : 2nd Biennial Rural Mental Health Conference 2005, 13th - 15th July 2005, Deakin University, Warrnambool campus

This conference aims to build on the success of the first Rural Mental Health Conference held in 2003 and continue to address issues faced by mental health services in rural areas by bringing together an interstate audience with national and international speakers. The conference will focus on gaps in service delivery in rural areas and is aimed at rural mental health workers and practitioners, GP's, participants, carers, the local indigenous community and key community stakeholders involved in the partnership of rehabilitation and health promotion.
Further details and Conference Flyer and Registration form can be viewed at http://www.aspire.org.au/conference or please contact Karen on kroberts@aspire.org.au

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The Australian Journal of Rural Health invites you to contribute to the ongoing development of rural health in Australia, and submit your manuscripts for publication. Send your papers to AJRH@newcastle.edu.au and be pleasantly surprised at how quickly you can be in print. Author guidelines and sample issues of the AJRH are available at http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/submit.asp?ref=1038-5282 or email ajrh@newcastle.edu.au for further information. The June 2005 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr

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EXTRA FUNDS BOOST RURAL AGED CARE

Care for older Australians in rural, remote and Indigenous aged care homes has been boosted with an extra $26.1 million in Australian Government funding, the Federal Minister for Ageing, Julie Bishop, has announced.

To ensure older Australians living in rural and remote areas can remain living in their local communities, rather than moving to metropolitan areas for care, the Australian Government is providing an extra $14.5 million in increased viability supplement to more than 250 aged care homes across Australia.

In addition, eligible services operating under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy will also receive viability supplement, amounting to $10.3 million over four years. Multipurpose Services will also receive an extra $1.3 million over four years in viability supplement to assist with the care of their aged care residents.

More information on the Viability Supplement Scheme can be found at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-rescare-rescprov-viabfact.htm or through the Aged and Community Care Information Line on 1800 500 853.

The Minister's statement is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-jb-bis090.htm

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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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FALL RELATED INJURIES IN AGRICULTURE
(Extract from RIRDC online, June, subscribe to murray.hansen@rirdc.gov.au)

This study found there is a significant economic cost from fall-related death and injury. A recent study estimated the direct cost of a hospitalised fall to be $3,851. With 174 such injuries per year in NSW, falls in agriculture cost the NSW hospital system $670,000 per annum. NSW represents 29.8% of Australian farms, which suggests the direct cost of farm-related fall injuries to the Australian hospital system would be around $2.2 million. Report summary at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/04-183sum.html and full report at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/04-183.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.bushcrisisline.org.au

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NEW HEALTH CHECK FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

The Commonwealth Government has announced a new Medicare-funded annual Indigenous health check for children from birth to 14 years of age. This additional Medicare item will encourage doctors to carry out regular and comprehensive health checks on Indigenous children to enable early detection of disease. The new health check will be introduced within the next 12 months.

The Minister's statement is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-ta-abb080.htm

A statement from the Rural Doctors Association welcoming the announcement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/

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AIHW REPORT ON INDIGENOUS HOUSING

In 2002 just over 30% of the estimated 165,700 Indigenous households in Australia were homeowners, and almost two-thirds lived in some form of rental housing in 2003-04. Twenty eight per cent rented from private landlords, 23% from state or territory housing authorities and 15% rented from Indigenous or mainstream community organizations.

For all Australian households, 70% were homeowners and 27% were in some form of rental housing.

AIHW statement is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2005/mr20050624.cfm
full report at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10134

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RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PAPERS 1991-2005

This CD ROM is a valuable resource for students, academics, researchers and policy writers in the field of rural, regional and remote health. The 1,800 separate authored documents contain 17,000 pages of information searchable by key words and phrases. The CD ROM includes full proceedings of the 8th National Rural Health Conference and all other National Rural Health Conferences, Healthy Horizons Outlook 2003-2007, PARTYline newsletters, the Australian Journal of Rural health 1992-2004, full proceedings of the Infront Outback Rural Health Scientific Conferences, the Alliance's rural Health Information Papers and the Alliance's Annual Reports. The CD is provided free of charge to all friends of the alliance. Individual membership is $44 - phone 02 6285 4660, email nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

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GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR REMOTE COMMUNITY

Health Minister Tony Abbott has announced that one of Australia's most remote Indigenous health services will receive more than $2 million to continue two health programs and to build new health worker accommodation. Nganampa Health Council (NHC), based in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands) in central Australia, will receive $117,700 to continue its highly regarded Child and Maternal Health program next year. Sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and HIV program will continue, with nearly $330,000 to be provided next financial year. NHC will also receive Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) funding of $1.694 million to construct four new fully furnished two-bedroom housing units to accommodate health professionals to deliver much needed health services. One of these units will be located at Iwantja, another at Mimili and two at Pukatja.

The Minister's statement is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-ta-abb082.htm

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NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Development of a mentorship programme for rural general practitioners by visiting specialist physicians'
When specialist medical care is scarce, this Letter to the Editor describes a possible solution.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=374

'Rural and remote communities – innovation in the midst of adversity'
Read Issue 2 Editorial: 'Rural and remote communities innovation in the midst of adversity' by Paul S Worley, Editor-in-Chief
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=458

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AMA RURAL REFERENCE GROUP

AMA President, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, has named the members of the AMA's new Rural Reference Group (RRG) who will investigate the unique health needs of country Australians and communities and make policy recommendations through the AMA to the Federal and State Governments.

The AMARRG members are:
Dr David Rivett (Chair) Bateman's Bay, NSW GP
Dr Henry Hicks Wagga Wagga, NSW Surgeon
Dr Aniello Iannuzzi Coonabarabran, NSW GP
Dr Ross Maxwell Dalby, Queensland GP
Dr David Meadows Darwin, NT GP
Dr Paula Kitto Alice Springs, NT Doctor In Training
Dr Pradobh Gogna Beverley, WA GP
Dr Peter Rischbieth Murray Bridge, SA GP
Dr Matthew McConnell Payneham, SA Doctor In Training
Dr Sam Lees Leongatha, Vic GP
Dr Michael Aizen Launceston, Tas GP

The Group will have its first formal meeting by teleconference on Thursday 30 June and will host a Rural Forum in Sydney on 4 August.

The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6DK3FZ

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB
(From Google Alert, see http://www.googlealert.com/)

University Department of Rural Health
The University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), Tasmania is committed to
improving access to health care resources and contributing to improved health ...
http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/

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From: Wilson, John
Subject: Australian Financial Review's: Australia's Ageing Population Summit 2005

Australian Financial Review's: Australia's Ageing Population Summit 2005
Sustainable strategies to tackle economic, infrastructure & community requirements 27th & 28th September 2005 - L'Aqua, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney
http://www.informa.com.au/ageing
email registration@informa.com.au
tel 02 9080 4364

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ABS STATISTICS FREE

Electronic copies of ABS publications and related statistical tables is now free to any member of the public with internet access. According to Federal Treasurer Peter Costello, this news will greatly assist the large number of organisations and businesses which draw on ABS statistics to help them make informed decisions on many different projects and programs that improve the lives of individual Australians. The statistics are available from the ABS website at http://www.abs.gov.au and the Treasurer's statement is at http://www.treasurer.gov.au/tsr/content/pressreleases/2005/065.asp

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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 2,097 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.