Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum - 12 August 2005

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 12 August 2005

In this issue:
* Scoping Study of Depression in Indigenous Communities
* Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme (ARRHPSS) - 2006 funding round now open
* Scholarship funds for rural and remote postgraduate nursing students
* Complete series of Dementia programs from The Rural Health Education Foundation are available for free on DVD or VHS video
* "Use your head, grab your helmet" (SOCBOB)
* "Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care" - Upcoming Rural Health Education Foundation TV broadcast - 30th August 2005
* Managing Pain Using Self-Management Approaches: Evidence and Implementation
* Rural Health on the ABC
* Editor - AJRH
* Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) NEW Timetable - to November 2005
* Team-based care the best model for rural birthing
* Rural Health on the Web
* Asthma more common among Indigenous Australians
* Commission Recommendations "Could Threaten Rural and Remote Health"
* New articles in Rural and Remote Health
* Improving ATV safety on Australian farms
* Skilling Australia conference
* Farmers' health major sustainability issue
* 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991 - 2005' CD Out Soon
* AMA Rejects Role Substitution and Task Substitution Proposals To Address Medical Workforce Shortages
* Information Technology - Doctors Won't Go Out on A Limb on A Whim
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

+ +

From: Kim Webber
Subject: Scoping Study of Depression in Indigenous Communities

beyondblue has commissioned the Australian Indigenous Health Infonet to do a scoping study of what we know about depression in Indigenous Australians.

We currently have very little information in the formal journal literature about this issue. Therefore, the Indigenous Health Infonet will aim to source as much data, reports and evaluations that have been undertaken, but not yet published in journals or other sources.

The results of the study will be shared and and disseminated widely. The project manager, Glenda Trevaskis can be contacted on g.trevaskis@ecu.edu.au or 08 9370 6197 if you have any questions or have any reports that should be considered in the review.

+ +

From:
Subject: Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme (ARRHPSS) - 2006 funding round now open
Importance: High

Applications are invited from suitably qualified rural and remote clinical health professionals (not including medical or nursing professionals), including Aboriginal Health Workers, for financial scholarships to assist in undertaking a range of postgraduate professional education activities including clinical placements, short courses, postgraduate tertiary courses and attendance at professional conferences.

Application package (including eligibility and selection criteria) can be accessed at http://www.sarrah.org.au/Scholarship/aboutus.asp

Closing date for applications is 16th September 2005

For further information contact:
Administration Officer
Email: rhps@ruralhealth.org.au
Phone: (02) 6162 0321

+ +

From: Jennifer Hastings
Subject: Scholarship funds for rural and remote postgraduate nursing students

Australian Rural and Remote Nurse Scholarship Program: Postgraduate Scheme Continuing Professional Development (CPD) & Conferences is currently seeking applications for scholarships. The Scheme, which is funded through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA), operates nationally.

Rosemary Bryant, Executive Director Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) said “This Scheme is a wonderful opportunity to allow nurses wanting to gain further practical skills to attend conferences to assist in furthering their professional development. I encourage people to contact our Free Call number 1800 11 72 62 for more information.”

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and be enrolled in an entry to practice undergraduate nursing courses. They must have a principle home address in an identified Australian rural or remote area, and have a current practicing certificate issued for the year 2005 by a nurse registration body.

For further information please visit http://www.rcna.org.au, or email scholarships@rcna.org.au or by free call 1800 11 72 62.

Postgraduate Scheme Applications close at 5pm on Friday 16 September 2005

+ +

From: Clair North
Subject: Complete series of Dementia programs from The Rural Health Education Foundation are available for free on DVD or VHS video

The complete series of FIVE Rural Health Education Foundation programs on Dementia is again available for free - and this time can be requested either on a 2-disk DVD set or on VHS video. See http://www.rhef.com.au/news/050725/050725.html for details.

To order (one set per person or organisation only within Australia), please email us at rhef@rhef.com.au or fax us on (02) 6232-5484 specifying your preferred format and providing your name, organisation, postal address, contact telephone number and email address.

Also note that the Foundation's series on Continence issues is also still available free of charge on VHS video (only).
http://www.rhef.com.au/news/050614/050614.html

+ +

From: Lisa Walker
Subject: "Use your head, grab your helmet" (SOCBOB)

I am in the initial stages of developing a National Campaign aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviour of Country Boys on Bikes (SOCBOB). I am looking for stories, statistics, suggestions, sponsorship and just plain old help in bringing this endeavour to light. At the moment I am in the information gathering stage. I have handed out the attached flier recently to Councils and other rural organisations at Country Week and intend to do so at Agquip and Toowoomba Ag show, just for starters.

When I gain enough information I envisage that I will then be able to develop a campaign which will include television ads, print media, public forums and information sessions, education programs in schools, and most importantly a campaign that will re-educate Dads! This should give you the general drift of what my intentions are.

The objective of the campaign is to change BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDE of country youth when riding on farms, roads, etc. While the Farm Safety Campaign includes the safety issues related to wearing a helmet, I think there needs to be far more emphasis placed on the NECESSITY to wear a helmet to stay alive or prevent serious injury. This presents a difficult challenge because we are dealing with the often bravado attitudes of teenagers. Statistics show the true story, it is horrific. We need a very high profile campaign and we need it soon.

I am sending you this email in the hope you may be able to help in some way. Please pass on to anyone who you think may have an interest or can help. I look forward to your response.

"Together we can make a difference!"

Lisa-Anne Walker

+ +

From: Clair North
Subject: "Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care" - Upcoming Rural Health Education Foundation TV broadcast - 30th August 2005

This documentary-style program examines community based primary care initiatives that are focussed on improving birth outcomes, building a healthy base for infants and providing culturally sensitive, safe and appropriate antenatal care.

These initiatives include the Mums and Bubs program (Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service QLD), Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service (Sydney), Strong Women Strong Babies Strong Culture (NT), NPY Health Service (NT) and Alukra (Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc NT).

Program information can be found by clicking http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/509a/509a.html
Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email rhef@rhef.com.au or telephone (02) 6232-5480.

+ +

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

+ +

RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

BUSH DOCTORS OF THE FAR NORTH (ABC Far North Queensland: 02/08/2005)
What's it like to be a doctor in a remote area of the far north? Doctors in rural and remote areas are some of the most skilled and challenged professionals in Australia. ABC North Queensland follows eight of them on their daily rounds. From Cairns to Bamaga and west to Georgetown, their voices are clear. They love it and wouldn't have it any other way.
(Summaries and audio available online.)
http://www.abc.net.au/farnorth/stories/s1428024.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/farnorth/stories/s1429330.htm

PETROL SNIFFING RUINS LIVES OF ULURU'S INDIGENOUS YOUTH (AM: 11/08/2005)
http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1435263.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1433289.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2005/s1433787.htm

+ +

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

+ +

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

+ +

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

RHEF has released its confirmed schedule of accredited satellite television broadcasts for the period 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 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

+ +

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 August 2005 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr

+ +

TEAM-BASED CARE THE BEST MODEL FOR RURAL BIRTHING

'Rural birthing services thrive on team-based care' is the message delivered to the Productivity Commission this week by the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA)—a message supported by the four main colleges that deliver training in the sector.

The full text of the statement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACFA78D.pdf

+ +

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

California Rural Health Policy Council (CRHPC)
Vision - Equitable Healthcare Accessibility for California.
http://www.ruralhealth.oshpd.state.ca.us/

+ +

ASTHMA MORE COMMON AMONG INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Asthma is more common among Indigenous Australians, particularly adults, than other Australians according to the latest "Asthma in Australia 2005" report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The AIHW release is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2005/mr20050812.cfm and the publication is available at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10158

+ +

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 and further information is available at national@lifeline.org.au and http://www.lifeline.org.au

+ +

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS "COULD THREATEN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) has reacted with grave concern to Commissioner Tony Morris' suggestion that closing one-doctor hospitals in rural and remote areas of Queensland may be one of his report's recommendations. The full text of the College statement is at http://www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=278

+ +

NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Mentoring, clinical supervision and preceptoring: clarifying the conceptual definitions for Australian rural nurses. A review of the literature'
Confused about the difference between mentoring, clinical supervision and precepting? You are not alone! This article summarises the international consensus on these roles and describes the implications for rural nurses.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=410

+ +

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

+ +

IMPROVING ATV SAFETY ON AUSTRALIAN FARMS
(Extract from RIRDC Online, subscribe by email to murray.hansen@rirdc.gov.au)

All-terrain vehicles have emerged over the past decade as a useful machine or small vehicle on Australian farms. However, their use is associated with a growing number of fatalities on farms, and Farmsafe Australia has recognised this as a key occupational health and safety issue for the farm sector. This report details a number of recommendations for reducing the accident and injury rate from the use of ATVs. Report summary is at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/05-082sum.html and full report is at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/HCC/05-082.pdf

+ +

From: Henson, Katy
Subject: Skilling Australia conference

The AFR's Skilling Australia conference
Addressing the nation's skill shortages
20th & 21st September 2005, Langham Hotel, Melbourne

For a full agenda visit http://www.informa.com.au/skilling
For more information or to register for this event call 02 9080 4307 or email registration@informa.com.au

+ +

FARMERS' HEALTH MAJOR SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE
(Extract from Stock Journal, 4 August 2005, at
http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=28164&s=22119)

The health of Australian farmers has been highlighted in the first year of a project conducted by Victoria's Western District Health Service in conjunction with Farm Management 500.

Research has demonstrated rural people have above average rates of premature death through heart disease, cancer and suicide. Farmers from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia took part in the project. Farmers participating in the study, from broadacre beef, wool and grain properties, were aged between 18 and 75.

Farm 500 project manager Matt McCarthy said: "I think it's fair to say the farming community has not paid enough attention to health in the past, despite its being a critical factor in the success of the industry."

+ +

'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PAPERS 1991 - 2005' CD OUT SOON

This CD 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 and are searchable by key words and phrases.

The CD includes:
* Full proceedings of the 8th National Rural Health Conference, Alice Springs, March 2005
* 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
* The Alliance's Annual reports

The CD is provided free of charge to all friends of the Alliance. If you would like to receive a copy of the CD go to the friends page on this site and fill in the membership form and return it with your payment to: National Rural Health Alliance, PO Box 280, DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600.

+ +

AMA REJECTS ROLE SUBSTITUTION AND TASK SUBSTITUTION PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS MEDICAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

The AMA submission to the Productivity Commission Review of Health Workforce included strong recommendations that the Government totally reject any moves to introduce role substitution and task substitution as solutions to Australia's medical workforce shortage.
In its submission, the AMA cites the dramatic advances in medicine over the last twenty years as a compelling argument that it would be dangerous to even contemplate replacing doctors with nurses, allied health workers or hybrids as team leaders in primary care settings.

The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6EW4DU

A clarification of the Rural Doctors' Association views on the subject is at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/050801%20Clarification%20of%20RDAA%20position%20-%20new%20workforce%20models.htm

+ +

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - DOCTORS WON'T GO OU ON A LIMB ON A WHIM

AMA President, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, said today that doctors are well connected to information technology in their practices, with over 90 per cent of GPs using electronic prescribing and communications systems. Responding to Health Minister Tony Abbott's comments earlier this week that implied doctors are stalling the uptake of information technology in the health system, Dr Haikerwal said the medical profession has led on this issue by actively encouraging and helping members make greater use of IT. "The process has stalled because the Government has not provided a clear business case for doctors to further expand their use of IT," Dr Haikerwal said.

The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6EX9N8

The speech by Health Minister Tony Abbott to the Health Informatics Conference is at
http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-ta-abbsp020805.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2005&mth=8

+ +

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 2,926 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.