Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 9 September 2005

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 9 September 2005

In this issue:
* NRHA Submission to Senate inquiry on raising safety net thresholds
* “Growing Healthy Aboriginal Kids – The Early Years: 1-5” Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast
* Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme (ARRHPSS) - 2006 funding round now open
* Scholarship funds for rural and remote postgraduate nursing students
* “Type 1 Diabetes” Tuesday 13th September 2005 - Live Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast
* The 10th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference
* Rural Health on the ABC
* Rural Doctors Back Call for More Physicians in the Bush
* Information Technology in NSW Health Symposium
* Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) Timetable - to November 2005
* Treasury Focus on Health Promotion
* World Mental Health Day - Outline
* Extract from Australian Doctor E-NEWS
* New article in Rural and Remote Health
* "Weeks"
* 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991 - 2005' CD Out Soon
* Hippocrates branches out to Australia
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

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NRHA SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY ON RAISING SAFETY NET THRESHOLDS

People in rural and remote areas are likely to be affected to a greater extent than those in the major cities for three reasons. First, they face higher average out-of-pocket costs so that, proportionately, they will bear more of the burden of the costs shifted to patients. Secondly, families in rural and remote areas can less well afford such costs because, in aggregate, they have lower incomes than their metropolitan counterparts. Finally, because accessing out-of-hospital care is more expensive for a number of reasons, people in country areas will find themselves paying the residual 20 per cent more frequently and with greater difficulty. This is especially the case given the higher incidence of some illnesses in country areas, especially injury but also circulatory disease, some cancers and respiratory disease.

The full text of the NRHA comments to the Committee is at
http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/commttee/S8658.pdf
The NRHA's written submission is available at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=Submissions

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From: Clair North
Subject: “Growing Healthy Aboriginal Kids – The Early Years: 1-5” Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast, Tuesday 27th September 2005

Key initiatives highlighted in this documentary-style program include Jirnani Childcare Centre (Nutrition & Family Program), Growth Assessment Action program (GAA) and Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc Alice Springs, ‘under 2’ program.

The program also examines how services such as the Rural and Remote Health community paediatricians and the paediatric liaison service provide a cohesive team linking communities and mainstream services.

Program information can be found by clicking http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/509b/509b.html

Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email rhef@rhef.com.au or telephone (02) 6232-5480.

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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

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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

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From: Clair North
Subject: “Type 1 Diabetes” Tuesday 13th September 2005 - Live Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast

This program discusses the issues of access to a multidisciplinary team trained in childhood diabetes including the family and the older adolescent, management of lifelong insulin replacement and monitoring of blood glucose including the complications of co-morbidity or common childhood illnesses, and management of transition from a paediatric to adult.

The program provides practical information on how to identify, diagnose and manage type 1 diabetes. Discussion will include the DAFNE program (Dose Adjusted for Normal Eating) and the emerging pattern of type 1 diabetes in adults – LADA.

Program information can be found by clicking http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/510/510.html

Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email rhef@rhef.com.au or telephone (02) 6232-5480

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From: meetings@astmanagement.com.au
Subject: The 10th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference

The 10th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference with the theme, Mental Health, Rural Health, Our Health, will be held on the 16th to 18th of November 2005 at Twin Towns, Tweed Heads, NSW.

The theme acknowledges the multi-faceted approach that clinicians, managers and policy makers face when making mental health decisions in rural and remote areas.

The Conference will have three main streams - Teamwork/Partnerships, Rural Mental Health and Physical Health/Mental Health, acknowledging that a rural mental health worker faces many challenges in their career and is required to be multi-skilled across a number of areas.

The full list of speakers and presenters is now available on the conference website http://www.astmanagement.com.au/nswhealth5

Mr Richard Buss & Prof Brian Kelly
Conference Co Chairs
10th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference
Conference Secretariat details:
c/- AST Management Pty Ltd
PO Box 5025 GCMC, Bundall Qld 4217
Ph: (d) 07 5577 3386 Jan Marquardt
Email: jan.marquardt@astmanagement.com.au
http://www.astmanagement.com.au/nswhealth5

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

INDIGENOUS DELEGATION CALLS FOR SNIFFABLE PETROL BAN (The World Today: 06/09/2005)
http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2005/s1454383.htm

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RURAL DOCTORS BACK CALL FOR MORE PHYSICIANS IN THE BUSH

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has supported calls for better measures to encourage specialist physicians to practise in rural Australia, adding there is a desperate need for all types of medical specialists in the bush. The full text of the RDAA statement is at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Doctors%20Back%20Call%20for%20More%20Physicians%20in%20the%20Bush%20--%20September%202005.htm

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From: Jill Hanvey
Subject: Information Technology in NSW Health Symposium

You are invited to attend the Information Technology in NSW Health Symposium 2005 on Friday, 28 October at the Stamford Hotel Sydney Airport. Attached is the Program, which has a wide range of presentations including EHR, clinical redesign and Telehealth programs in NSW and reflects the recent changes in NSW Health. To register please visit our web site
http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/pmd/telehealth/

Jill Hanvey
Strategic Information Management
NSW Health
Tel: (02) 9391 9857
Fax:(02) 9391 9015
email: jhanv@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

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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. The August edition (No. 23) of PARTYline is available now. 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) 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 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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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

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TREASURY FOCUS ON HEALTH PROMOTION

The Commonwealth Treasury has turned its attention to health promotion. An article in the latest Treasury "Economic Roundup" starts from Hippocrates' proposition that "the function of protecting and developing health must rank even above that of restoring it when it is impaired."

The article argues that greater emphasis on population-based measures to prevent, reduce or delay the onset of lifestyle-related chronic illness is likely to enhance and extend labour force participation and increase productivity as the population ages and thereby increase economic growth. Moreover, by enhancing the general health and independence of the ageing population such measures may also contain the associated projected growth in health and aged care expenditure.

The article is available at http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/1009/PDF/03_Health_Promotion_Roundup_article.pdf

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

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From: Lynnette Eager
Subject: World Mental Health Day - Outline

The Mental Health Council of Australia invites you to “be active for your mental health” and to participate in the launch of National Mental Health Week. The launch will take place in Canberra on:
World Mental Health Day
Monday, 10 October 2005
at Reconciliation Place
commencing at 10.00 am with a "Canberra Lake Walk".

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP has been invited to MC the launch. Celebrities (including Jessica Rowe, MHCA Patron and Channel 10 newsreader), Sev Ozdowski (Human Rights Commissioner), and a number of Australian Institute of Sport's elite athletes and community leaders will be attending the Canberra Lake Walk. Colonel Tony Cotton has advised the Department of Defence is also interested in participating.

The 2005 World Mental Health Day theme is “Better Mental Health through Physical Exercise”. The theme will be developed around three key messages that provide ways individuals can build and maintain positive mental health: “Act-Belong-Commit”
“Act” walk, swim, read, daydream …
“Belong” join a group, chat to a neighbour, meet a friend …
“Commit” take a challenge, get involved, volunteer …

With recent unprecedented interest across Australia in mental health, this year’s National Mental Health Week provides an opportunity to raise community understanding of mental health issues and provide individuals with strategies to enhance their mental well-being.

A list of events which have been planned in your state/territory will be available on the MHCA website http://www.mhca.org.au. This list will be updated daily in the lead-up to NMHW and will provide links for further details on each event. We would welcome your involvement or promotion of these activities.

If you (and your staff) would like to demonstrate your support of World Mental Health Day and participate in the "Canberra Lake Walk", please RSVP to Lynnette Eager at the MHCA on 6285 3100 .

Regards
John Mendoza
Chief Executive Officer
Mental Health Council of Australia

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Extract from Australian Doctor E-NEWS
(subscribe at If you would like to unsubscribe please visit the page below:
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/enewsletter.asp)

BULK-BILLING UP, BUT ACCESS STILL PATCHY (31-Aug-2005)
GP bulk-billing has reached a four-year high of 74.8%, with rural areas enjoying the greatest growth, new HIC figures show.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/61/0C035F61.asp

NEW ACCRM PRESIDENT TO CONTINUE SPECIALTY STATUS BID (31-Aug-2005)
VICTORIAN GP Dr David Campbell has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/36/0C035E36.asp

SHARING THE LOAD (8-Sep-2005)
A plan to train nurses and other health professionals to take over some GP roles has polarised the debate on solving the doctor shortage.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/FB/0C035AFB.asp

QLD MOVE BRINGS RURAL SPECIALTY STATUS A STEP CLOSER (8-Sep-2005)
Rural GPs have taken a significant step forward in their bid to be recognised as specialists, with the Queensland Government planning to pay doctors with a fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine at specialist rates.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/D0/0C0362D0.asp

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NEW ARTICLE IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Evaluation of the ACRRM National Radiology Program for Australian Rural and Remote Medical Practitioners'
Re-skilling rural practitioners is a challenging issue for countries around the world. Read how Australia is ensuring rural practitioners are able to provide a much needed radiology service to their communities.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=349

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"WEEKS"

National Mental Health Week (9-16 October 2005). http://www.mhca.org.au

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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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REGIONAL FOODS SUPPORTING RURAL HEALTH AND WEALTH

A publication featuring new research about the effect of regionalism on food production, economics and health in rural Australia has been launched by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Richard Colbeck. The publication, "Regional Foods - Australia's Health and Wealth", was launched by Senator Colbeck at the 2nd Australian Farmers' Market Association Conference in Albury. Senator Colbeck said health was a topic of particular concern in regional Australia. The full text of Senator Colbeck's statement is at http://www.psmaff.gov.au/releases/05/05039c.html

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'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.

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HIPPOCRATES BRANCHES OUT TO AUSTRALIA
(Extract from Neos Kosmos English Edition, full article at http://www.neoskosmos.com.au/050829/nkew/community/community_index.shtml)

THE spirit of the father of medicine, Hippocrates, will be planted in Australia next month. An offshoot from the legendary tree that Hippocrates is said to have taught under will find a new home in Dubbo, New South Wales. One of the seedlings has been transported to Dubbo and after being carefully tended at the local State Forest Nursery it will now be symbolically planted and blessed on Friday 9 September 2005 in the grounds of the School of Rural Health.

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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 (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to 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 2,929 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.