Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 23 September 2005

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 23 September 2005

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OLDER PEOPLE NEED BETTER AGED CARE IN RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

The National Rural Health Alliance and Aged and Community Services Australia released a Policy Paper, 'Older People and Aged Care in Rural, Regional and Remote Australia', calling for urgent action to ensure appropriate care and support can continue to be provided and improved as the bush 'ages'. The full statement is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=MediaReleases&Year=2005 and the position paper at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=PositionPapers

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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: Kim Webber
Subject: Mental Health Promotion – Project Officer

A 2 year Project Officer position is now available at beyondblue: the national depression initiative.

We are looking for someone with a good understanding of delivering programs and health and mental health promotion to diverse population groups. The successful candidate will have graduate qualifications and extensive relevant experience in health promotion/public health and related research.

This position will support the population based programs of beyondblue focusing on special groups such as rural, Indigenous, men and the elderly. The person will be expected to develop innovative mental health promotion programs around depression prevention and early intervention, through partnership with stakeholders and communities. Community capacity, partnerships and sustainability will be a fundamental part of all program development. The South Australian community will be a key focus for the position.

A position description is available from Kate on 03 9810 6100. Applications should be emailed to jobs@beyondblue.org.au. Written applications should be addressed to the Business and Finance Manager PO Box 6100 Hawthorn West VIC 3122. Applications closing by C.O.B. Wednesday 21 September 2005.

Further information is available from:
Dr Kim Webber, kim.webber@beyondblue.org.au or 03 9810 6109.

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From: Clair North
Subject: Immunisation Update - LIVE Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast

Immunisation Update
Tuesday 11th October 2005
This program focuses on the recent changes to the National Immunisation Program Schedule (due to commence on November 1st 2005)

and the basic principles for safe vaccine management. The special vaccination needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and the specific changes to the schedule are discussed. Case study discussion focuses on the challenges of setting up an immunisation program in an Aboriginal community.

Program information can be found by clicking http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/511/511.html

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

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LATEST NEWS FROM THE RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Birthing in the Bush, Not at the Roadside
With the already dwindling number of rural obstetricians expected to decline substantially within 5 years, urgent measures are needed to combat the impending crisis, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) warned. Full text of the statement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Birthing%20in%20the%20Bush,%20Not%20at%20the%20Roadside%20--%20September%202005.htm

Care When It's Most Needed
A range of initiatives to improve palliative care access and information for rural Australians with terminal illness will greatly assist those patients and their families at a tumultuous time in their lives, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) said. Full text is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACF379E.htm

Strategic Outcomes from the RDAA and ACRRM Symposium, "Birthing Services in Small Rural Hospitals: Sustaining Rural and Remote Communities"
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Symposium%20brochure%20--%20electronic%20version%20--%20July%202005.pdf

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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

AgForce puts focus on farm safety
http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200509/s1461498.htm

A Hollows focus
Think of the Fred Hollows Foundation and the image of a cranky old larrikin comes to mind. He has medical equipment in one hand and is gazing intently into the eyes of an Aboriginal woman, right? http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2005/s1467120.htm

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From: Milligan, David
Subject: Name Change for ARRAHT

The HPCA has changed its name to HPCARRAC (Health Professions Council of Australia Rural and Remote Advisory Committee). This change more accurately reflects our role and alludes to a more permanent basis than a taskforce which is usually time-limited in nature. It also reduces potential "brand confusion" with SARRAH.

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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/

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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

Work has commenced on the next edition of PARTYline which is due out before Christmas and we are now seeking articles from interested people. The due date for articles to be received is 10 October. The size of short articles is usually 150-250 words; larger articles run between 250 and 550 words. We encourage photos that relate to the story. The photographic theme for the issue will be of 'weather' - as it impacts on rural life. You can invite friends to submit photos, in rural settings, of storms, drought, rain, floods, snowfall, dust storms etc. Photos need to be high resolution tif or jpg files (or an old-fashioned photo.) leanne@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 to November:

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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NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR PEAK BODY ON ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Mr Henry Councillor is the newly elected Chairperson of Australia’s peak Aboriginal voice on Aboriginal health (NACCHO). National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation members elected Mr Henry Councillor to lead their organisation at its national conference in Alice Springs 6-9 September. Mr Councillor is a Jungual man from the Jaru people of the Kimberley in Western Australia and has several decades of experience working at a local, state and national level, in the area of Aboriginal health. NACCHO's website is at http://www.naccho.org.au/

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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 http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/enewsletter.asp)

INDIGENOUS STUDENT'S DREAM GETS CLOSER (8-Sep-2005)
Medical student Ms Beth Kervin, an aspiring GP who wants to join the small band of about 60 Aboriginal doctors practising in Australia, has won a $150,000 medical school scholarship from the Shalom Institute to achieve her dream.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/D7/0C0360D7.asp

ONLINE EDUCATION PROVES ITS WORTH (15-Sep-2005)
Doctors who undertake continuing medical education over the Internet may do better than those who attend face-to-face meetings, research suggests.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/67/0C036667.asp

S100 LIMITS TO STAY (21-Sep-2005)
The Federal Health Department has baulked at extending to rural and urban areas a scheme that allows Aboriginal people in remote areas free access to PBS medicines, despite the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council backing the change.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/66/0C036966.asp

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NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Improving the health of rural Australians'
We all know that informed policy development is crucial to improvement of rural health services. Informing this policy development through providing an international peer-reviewed evidence base is one of the aims of Rural and Remote Health. In this invited personal view, the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Ageing in the Australian Government, clearly outlines the raft of policy initiatives that underpin Australia's progress in rural health.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=487

'Effect of an on-site emergency physician in a rural emergency department at night'
Does the level of training of rural doctors improve the quality of care in rural communities? It may appear there is an obvious answer - Yes! But what hard evidence do you have to support this assertion? This article provides important preliminary evidence for emergency departments in large rural centres.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=380

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"WEEKS" AND "DAYS"

National Day for Older Australians, 1 October 2005.
http://www.seniors.gov.au/internet/seniors/publishing.nsf/Content/National+Day+for+Older+Australians

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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ACTION ON PETROL SNIFFING

The Australian Government has announced a $9.5 million boost in funding to tackle petrol sniffing in Central Desert Indigenous communities. http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2005-ta-abb109.htm

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Australia's Welfare Conference 2005: 'Connected Challenges, Connecting Response'

Presented by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Library of Australia, Canberra, Wednesday 30th November

If you pride yourself on being at the forefront of Australian welfare information and statistics then attendance at this year's Australia's Welfare Conference is a must. The conference held at the National Library of Australia in Canberra will benefit all professionals, government administrators and academics serious about welfare issues, statistics and information.

Full registration includes morning and afternoon teas, a full buffet lunch, and a copy of Australia's Welfare 2005. Visit http://www.aihw.gov.au to register or contact Anna Stark on 02 6244 1287, or anna.stark@aihw.gov.au.

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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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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 2,678 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.