Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 4 November 2005

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 4 November 2005

In this issue:
* Focus on Remote Australia: Health and Well-being
* “Falls Prevention” Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast
* 8th National Rural Health Conference
* RDAA statements
* 7th WONCA Rural Health Conference
* Schedule of programs for Rural Health Education Foundation October through December
* The 10th NSW Rural Mental Health Conference
* Articles in 'Rural and Remote Health'
* AIHW Report
* AMA Forum To Put the e Into Health
* 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991 - 2005' CD Out Now
* Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer
* Full text of "Focus on Remote Australia: Health and Well-being"

+ +

FOCUS ON REMOTE AUSTRALIA: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Councillors of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) met with key politicians on Monday 31 October to discuss the current state of rural and remote health issues. The 26-strong Council of the Alliance had gathered in Canberra for its annual 5-Day CouncilFest.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=MediaReleases&Year=2005 and is reprinted below.

+ +

From: Clair North
Subject: “Falls Prevention” Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast

“Falls Prevention” Tuesday 15th November 2005
Rural Health Education Foundation National Satellite TV Broadcast

This program discusses best practice falls management and how best to prevent and manage falls; highlighting the benefits achieved from an effective falls program.

Intrinsic risk factors like medications, environmental hazards, psychosocial and demographics factors, sensory and neuromuscular and medical conditions such as stroke, dementia and Parkinson’s Disease will be discussed in developing an effective falls program.

Program information can be found by clicking www.rhef.com.au/programs/512/512.html

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

+ +

8th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The full text of all available papers can now be seen in the Program & Papers page on this website - go to http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/publicdocs/conferences/8thNRHC/Program.htm

The ten Key Recommendations are on the Conference Recommendations page. Also available on that page is the Full Set of Recommendations, which provides a useful 'snapshot' of people's plans and proposals for better health. The full set was not formally endorsed or prioritised at the conference. Go to
http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/publicdocs/conferences/8thNRHC/RecsProcess.htm

+ +

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

+ +

RDAA STATEMENTS

RDAA and ACRRM communique following joint strategic planning weekend. Rural doctor leaders from around Australia met in St Kilda, Melbourne from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 October 2005, as part of the Annual General Meetings and strategic planning days of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). Statement available at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20and%20ACRRM%20Melbourne%20communique%20--%20November%202005.htm

Innovative Rural Doctor Wins RDAA Rural Registrar of the Year Award. Dr Kevin Le, a GP surgeon at Milton-Ulladulla on the south coast of New South Wales, is the recipient of the inaugural Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) Rural Registrar of the Year Award for 2005. Statement available at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20Rural%20Registrar%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%20Winner%20--%20October%202005.htm

Dedicated Rural Doctor WinsRDAA Rural Doctor of the Year Award. Dr Tony Lian-Lloyd, a solo doctor in the rural community of Quorn in South Australia, is the recipient of the inaugural Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) Rural Doctor of the Year Award for 2005. Statement available at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20Rural%20Doctor%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%20Winner%20--%20October%202005.htm

Specialist Recognition and Rural Loadings — Critical Factors for a Healthy Rural Future. Many rural communities across Australia face a future without a local doctor unless the Federal Government introduces rural-specific complexity and after-hours loadings through Medicare and formally recognises rural and remote medicine as being a medical speciality, the new President of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), Dr Ross Maxwell, warned. Statement available at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACF33D1.htm

+ +

Subject: Schedule of programs for Rural Health Education Foundation through December
From: Clair North

The program schedule for the remainder of the year includes the programs listed below. Each program is repeated the following Friday.

Falls Prevention – 15 November (LIVE)
Prostate Cancer: Treatment and Access – 29 November (Repeat)
Obesity and Overweight: It CAN be Managed – 13 December (Repeat)

Information on the programs and satellite locations and times can be obtained by visiting http://www.rhef.com.au or contacting the Rural Health Education Foundation on (02) 6232 5480

+ +

7th WONCA RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Transforming Rural Practice Through Education
8-15 September 2006
Seattle, WA, USA
http://www.ruralwonca2006.com

Wonca is the World Organisation of Family Doctors, which has a specific Working Party on Rural Practice. This Working Party holds an annual conference on rural health and has produced a number of policy documents regarding rural health (for more information about Wonca, go to http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com).

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 17 February 2006.

WONCA Rural Conference
8-10 September 2006
University of Washington campus
Clinical Conference
11-13 September 2006
34th Annual Advances in Family Practice and Primary Care
University of Washington campus
Post Conference
13-15 September 2006
Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge - Anchorage, Alaska

+ +

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

+ +

ARTICLES IN 'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH'

Australian rural midwives: perspectives on continuing professional development. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provides an important counter to workforce pressures affecting rural midwives; however, there is a lack of information about how rural midwives understand and perceive CPD and how this is situated in the practising and social context. This research aimed to explore rural midwives' experiences and perceptions of CPD in context. http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=468

Barriers facing junior doctors in rural practice. Early postgraduate, or junior doctors, are still required to practise in rural and remote

communities, and they continue to face numerous issues and difficulties. Within the hospital setting, exposure to rural practice appears to be very limited during internship, and also to some extent, during the second postgraduate year and beyond. This is a major issue for those required to undertake country relieving, rural terms or who will be bonded to rural and remote practice for several years after internship. This research investigated the current issues and difficulties faced by junior doctors, required to undertake rural and remote practice in Queensland, Australia. http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=348

+ +

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

+ +

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

+ +

AIHW REPORT

Indigenous housing report highlights continued disparities
Indigenous Australians are more likely to rent than to own their homes, and they are more likely to be homeless and to live in overcrowded conditions than non-Indigenous Australians, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The AIHW release is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2005/mr20051025.cfm and the full report is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10166

+ +

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

+ +

AMA FORUM TO PUT THE E INTO HEALTH

AMA President, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, has announced that the AMA will host an innovative high-level expert E-Health Forum in Canberra in December to accelerate information, education and take-up of electronic health initiatives by Australian doctors.

The AMA statement is available at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6HH9RP

+ +

'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PAPERS 1991 - 2005' CD

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 at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=Friendsand fill in the membership form and return it with your payment to: National Rural Health Alliance, PO Box 280, DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600.

+ +

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 2,466 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

+ +

FOCUS ON REMOTE AUSTRALIA: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Councillors of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) will be meeting with key politicians on Monday 31 October to discuss the current state of rural and remote health issues. The 26-strong Council of the Alliance is gathered in Canberra for its annual 5-Day CouncilFest.

The National Rural Health Alliance is the peak body working to improve the health of Australians in rural and remote areas. It is comprised of 24 Member Bodies, representing both health consumers and service providers in non-metropolitan areas.

An important part of the annual gathering will be a series of meetings in Parliament House, including with Health Minister Tony Abbott and key MPs on Monday 31 October. Council will be holding a press conference in Parliament House at 12.45pm.

Topics to be highlighted will include:
* the availability of fresh food in remote Australia
* workforce issues, including for oral and dental health
* patient travel and accommodation schemes, and
* aged care in rural areas.

Following its AGM on 30 October, a newly-appointed Alliance Chairperson will be leading the delegations. Sue McAlpin, dietitian at Wagga Wagga, has completed a two-year term as Chair.

“We are very keen to build on the good work from the recent 8th National Rural Health Conference in Alice Springs and increase the awareness of the challenges we face in rural and remote health to Parliamentarians, including the Minister and Shadow Minister,” Ms McAlpin said.