







- \* A recent increase in infectious disease mortality
- \* Relatively constant death rate from cancer after adjusting for lung cancer among males.

The AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060405.cfm> and the full report is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10154>

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Join friends of the Alliance in 2006. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2005', a 2006 friends certificate, regular issues of PARTYline newsletter, and be eligible for a discounted registration at the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury in March 2007. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance's information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

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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 December edition (No. 24) of PARTYline is available online at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhpublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine> or receive a hard copy by emailing [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

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#### AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH 2006 CONFERENCE 21 June 2006, Hyatt Hotel Canberra, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla

This one day conference, held in Canberra, provides insights into key issues facing Australia's health services and resources, chronic diseases, and highlights trends and concerns in population health. The conference will assess current health statistics and demonstrate the relevance of these figures to existing and future health practices and reforms.

The one-day program commences with the launch of Australia's health 2006 by the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, Minister for Health and Ageing. This publication is the nation's most comprehensive and authoritative source of health statistics and related information. All delegates receive a complimentary copy of this important statistical resource.

The conference program, available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/ah06/program.cfm> includes keynote addresses by eminent speakers, with sessions being held in a broad spectrum of health arenas including:

- \* Socioeconomic inequalities
- \* Workforce planning
- \* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- \* Changing face of primary healthcare
- \* Chronic diseases
- \* Health as an economic growth sector
- \* Rural health

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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](mailto:national@lifeline.org.au) and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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#### Extract from Australian Doctor E-NEWS

EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR RURAL GPs (5-Apr-2006)  
Rural GPs will be offered training grants worth up to \$3000 a year to boost their emergency medicine skills under an expansion of the Federal Government's Training for Rural and Remote Procedural GPs initiative.  
<http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/1D/0C03E81D.asp>

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#### NEW ACCOMMODATION BOOSTS LISMORE RURAL HEALTH STUDIES

More students of medicine, nursing and allied health disciplines will be able to study and experience rural health practice in Lismore, following the opening of expanded and improved student accommodation. The Commonwealth Government has provided \$576,290 to renovate and refurbish two houses for use by students of the Northern Rivers University Department of Rural Health (UDRH). Eleven university departments of rural health have been established in rural Australia and two more will open shortly as part of the Government's \$830 million Rural Health Strategy. The full text of Health Minister, Tony Abbott's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb041.htm>

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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>





