Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 23 June 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 23 June 2006
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9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS NOW OPEN ONLINE

It only seems five minutes since we welcomed you all to Alice Springs. How time flies when we're having fun! Those of you who were there will remember the central commitment we made to achieving equal health for people in remote and rural areas by 2020. We aren't there yet, and the 9th Conference in Albury represents the next major opportunity for us to check progress and reflect on our successes and continuing challenges.

There is a lot happening in rural and remote health, even though we are not apparently central to the current political agenda. Those things that are on top of the agenda, however, are certainly related to health and well-being. At national and international levels we are exhorted to be alert but not alarmed. This surely weighs on our thoughts, words and deeds and cannot be divorced from the way we feel as individuals or the way we behave as communities. At the national level we are engaged in major reform of the health system. Questions are being asked about how the health system is funded, the shape of Medicare, how hospitals operate, the relationship between Commonwealth and State agencies, and the future of our health workforce. All of these have rural and remote dimensions, and from all of them will flow changes for people on the ground in non-metropolitan areas. We must stay close to these changes: inform them, guide them and evaluate them.

The Conference in Albury is a chance for us all to get together again to focus on the evidence about where we are up to and how we can improve our circumstances. The evidence we need comes not only from the work of researchers and academics, but also from the reports of consumers and managers about realities on the ground and in the corridors of power. It should surely be possible for us to bring together experiences from the past decade and from various parts of rural and remote Australia to agree on what works best, and why.

I therefore encourage you to attend the Conference and to have your say. You can be assured that the NRHA will provide you with a very warm welcome and a well-managed event. In addition to the evidence you will hear, there will be a range of activity to ensure that you are kept entertained and . There will be an arts-in-health stream, an exhibition, networking time, and the opportunity to meet new and old friends.

We pride ourselves on making sure that the Conference is not a talkfest but an opportunity to agree on action we can collaboratively pursue. We need your input, your ideas and your support to ensure that, as soon as possible, people in rural and remote areas have the same opportunities and the same health as people in our major cities.

I look forward to seeing you in Albury.

John Wakerman
Chairperson

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS DUE FRIDAY 14 JULY 2006

It's only 6 weeks until the Call for Abstracts closes for the 9th National Rural Health Conference. For a copy of the Abstract Guidelines, or to submit an abstract, please visit the Conference Website. Alternatively please call the National Rural Health Alliance on 02 6285 4660.

Authors are invited and encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration by the Conference Committee. Abstracts for contributed papers will be accepted online until Friday 14 July 2006. Emailed abstracts must be received by the same date, but please contact speakers@ruralhealth.org.au for alternative abstract guidelines if you intend to email your abstract. The Infront/Outback stream will be comprised of refereed papers and there will also be a General stream. Speakers are encouraged to download and review the Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts document (178 kB pdf) at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au before submitting an abstract.

To submit your abstract for the 9th National Rural Health Conference you will be required to provide:
* the full contact details of a key contact (the Submitting Author);
* details of the abstract, including abstract title, names and affiliations of authors/co-authors;
* preferred presentation type (papers, poster or workshop);
* key words;
* audiovisual requirements; and,
* biographies of the presenting author(s).

For more detailed instructions, please see the Abstract Submission Requirements page at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au

Please go to the online conference page at http://www.ruralhealth.org.auto lodge your abstract online. If you have questions regarding the

online abstract submission process, please contact speakers@ruralhealth.org.au. All abstracts will be read as part of the selection process by the Conference organisers. Submitting an abstract does not guarantee that your paper will be accepted. The selection process will be finalised and all authors will be notified in September 2006.

The Conference website is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au

For further information, contact:
The 9th National Rural Health Conference
PO Box 280
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au

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From: Elaine Chan
Subject: Anti-Poverty Week 2006 - An Invitation to Health Workers

Anti-Poverty Week begins this year on Sunday 15 October and finishes on Saturday 21 October. As usual, it includes International Anti-Poverty Day which has been designated by the UN as October 17. The Week focuses on poverty around the world, especially in the poorest countries but also in wealthier countries such as Australia. This year, Health and Poverty is a major theme.

The main aims of the Week are to:
* strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship;
* encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

The Week is coordinated by major organisations around Australia that work to reduce poverty and hardship. The National Chair is Prof Julian Disney of the University of New South Wales, and there are also Chairs in each State and Territory.

We hope that Health Workers throughout Australia will organise something during the Week, whether it is a big event or a more modest activity. There's no need to seek official approval. We have suggested Thursday 19 October as a special day for Health and Poverty. But you are very welcome to hold activities on whichever days of the Week suit you. Here are a few ideas:
* Launch a health campaign to address poverty-related health issues
* Arrange for a guest speaker to visit your organisation
* Conduct a survey on health and poverty-related issues
* Hold a fundraiser night at your organisation, with proceeds going to a local health or welfare organisation
* Publish a special Anti-Poverty Week edition of a health newsletter or magazine

How can Anti-Poverty Week support an event?
* A listing on the Activities page of our website
* Anti-Poverty Week posters to help promote the activity
* An electronic information kit on Australian and international poverty.
* Information and advice on how to find more about poverty and possible speakers for events
* Contact details of people planning activities in your area

FOR MORE INFORMATION see http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au or
contact us at 1-300-797-290 or coordinator@antipovertyweek.org.au

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From: Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group
Subject: Job Vacancy: Senior Officer FT or PT

The Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group (ARRWAG) is a national, not for profit peak body focussing on the recruitment and support of GPs for rural and remote communities. The ARRWAG office is based in Melbourne.

ARRWAG is seeking to appoint a Senior Officer with excellent research, policy and communication skills. The person will be flexible, have a 'can do' attitude and strive for excellence in their work. The person will need to have enthusiasm for data/information analysis and preparing papers, reports and information materials.

A contract will be offered for a period of one year with an option for extension, subject to funding. A salary package of $80 - $90 k (pro rata) will be offered (dependent on qualifications and experience). Salary packaging is available.

The job description and selection criteria are available at www.arrwag.com.au. Closing date is 3 July 2006.

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From: Megan Hinchley
Subject: Specialised skin cancer training for GPs - the first of it's kind in Australia

For the first time in Australia, and possibly the world, GPs will be able to attend skin cancer workshops and gain a university-based qualification.

The Skin Cancer Workshops, developed by the University of Queensland's (UQ) School of Medicine and a team of international specialists, aim to provide GPs with introductory training in the diagnosis and management of skin cancer in the primary care setting.

This course qualifies for 60 Category 1 RACGP CPD points, ACRRM PDP points and is recognised under the Rural Procedural Grants. GPs who undertake this course will also receive a UQ Professional Certificate in Skin Cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Australia and GPs remove up to 720,000 suspected skin cancers each year. This training will give GPs specialised training in skin cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The two-day weekend workshops will be delivered by specialists and industry experts, in small group settings, to ensure that outstanding learning outcomes can be achieved. The workshops are interactive and case-based, giving GPs a hands on and practical education program.

Workshops will be held at universities in every capital, Auckland and the Gold Coast from July – November. As this is the only university-based qualification of its kind available in Australia, and with limited spaces available, GPs will need to register quickly to make sure they can participate in these workshops.

For further information or to register for the workshops visit www.skincancerworkshops.com or call Paul Elmslie on 07 3137 1399 or email workshops@healthcert.com.au

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From: Clair North
Subject: Paediatric Gastroenteritis

Repeat national satellite television broadcast
Tuesday 11th July 8:00pm EST (repeated Friday 14th July 12:30pm EST)
Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation

This is a repeat program providing a practical approach to the assessment, diagnosis and management of acute gastroenteritis in the paediatric patient. Clinical information includes assessment of percentage of dehydration, deciding on hospital admission, choice of fluid, clinical investigations and re-feeding.

Demonstrations of nasogastric tube insertion on a child and insertion of an intra-osseous needle are included. Management is also discussed in the context of several case studies.

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National.
Dr Paul Jenkins, Paediatrician, the Canberra Hospital ACT.
Ms Ella Scott, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick NSW.
Dr Andrew White, Remote Area Paediatrician, Alice Springs NT.
Dr Hugh Heggie, Medical Officer, Ammonguna Health Service, Ammonguna NT.

For details about the program visit http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/507/507.html

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC
(Extract from ABC Rural Newsletter - http://www.abc.net.au/rural/default.htm)

RURAL CANCER FEARS
Michael Condon (National Rural Reporter)
New research has found that workers in agriculture, mining and forestry are the most at risk of developing cancer. A report released this week finds that workers in all Australian workplaces are twice as likely as previously thought, to be exposed to cancer causing substances, with a total of 1.5 million workers at risk. And those with the biggest cause for concern are the workers routinely exposed to UV rays, pesticides, fumes, dust and asbestos, meaning many of them live in regional Australia. But the Queensland-based Farmsafe organisation says cancer risks have been greatly minimised because farmers now have to go through chemical accreditation programs. It denies there's evidence of high cancer rates in agriculture because of pesticides.

FROM FARMING TO PHARMACEUTICALS
Imagine how hard it would be for a farmer at the age of 28 going back to high school and then studying 10 years to become a doctor.
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2006/s1666075.htm

COMMONWEALTH PUSHES STATES ON RURAL HEALTH FUNDING
Jane Bardon (National Rural Reporter)
The Federal Government says the standard of some regional health services, including obstetrics and cancer treatment, is unacceptable, and state and territory governments will be forced to make improvements. The Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile, says the Federal Government is planning to make Commonwealth health funding to the states conditional on a fair share of it going to rural and remote hospitals. Mr Vaile says the proposal has received some support from the Health Minister Tony Abbott, and would be written into the health funding agreements for 2008.

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AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH 2006

Australia's international ranking for numerous aspects of health is among the top 10 of the world's developed countries, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's latest national report card on health, Australia's health 2006.

It shows that while we should be pleased with the overall improvements in health, lifestyle-related risk factors such as insufficient physical activity, obesity and Type 2 Diabetes are still a concern. Smoking also remains a public health challenge, and there is still too little evidence that the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is improving.

A disturbing fact that continues to pervade the overall health picture is the poorer health of Australia's Indigenous population. Death rates of Indigenous infants remain about 3 times those of other Australian infants, and about 70% of Indigenous Australians die before reaching 65, compared with a little over 20% for other Australians.'

The AIHW statement is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060621.cfm and the full publication at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10321

The speech by Health Minister Tony Abbott launching the report, concentrating on indigenous health issues, is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abbsp210606.htm

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Manuscript submissions to The Australian Journal of Rural Health can now be made online through Manuscript Central. Easy and fast submission process; track the progress of your article at any time; safe and secure site. Simply log on to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh to submit your manuscript today and share the wealth of your knowledge. Full author instructions and guidelines can be found at the AJRH homepage - http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ajr

The June 2006 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr. Articles include:

* Incubating desirable change in our health workforce
* Rural eHealth paradox: It's not just geography!
* Australian issues in the provision of after-hours primary medical care services in rural communities
* Far West Area Health Service Mental Health Integration Project: Model for rural Australia?
* Maternity emergency care: Short course in maternity emergencies for remote area health staff with no midwifery qualifications
* Rural pharmacy not delivering on its health promotion potential
* Patterns of drug use and associated harms among rural injecting drug users: Comparisons with metropolitan injecting drug users
* Demographic analysis of currently registered dentists in Western Australia: Rural urban divide
* Implementing a 'Men's Health Pitstop' in the Riverina, South-west New South Wales
* Total learning environment and the implications for rural student nurse retention
* Chronic pain in the rural arena
* Grazings

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RURAL CHEMO - LACK OF ACCESS THE REAL KILLER

Rural doctors and other rural healthcare professionals provide safe and effective chemotherapy to cancer patients in rural communities, providing a critical local service for those unable or unwilling to travel hours to major centres for the same treatment, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has argue.

“On ABC TV’s Four Corners recently, a spokesman for the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia claimed that some healthcare staff in rural Australia are untrained in providing chemotherapy and hence not able to provide optimal treatment outcomes for rural cancer patients” RDAA President, Dr Ross Maxwell, said.

“This does not reflect the real situation. Research indicates that if you live in remote areas of Australia and are diagnosed with cancer, you are 35% to 300% more likely to die over the ensuing five years than if you live in an area with the greatest access to health services, depending on the type of cancer you have contracted.

“Many rural patients cannot access cancer diagnosis and treatment close to home and therefore in a timely manner. It is this lack of access which causes the poor cancer outcomes in the bush. Chemotherapy is provided in rural Australia to address the enormous difficulties that rural and remote patients have in accessing chemotherapy far from home. Rural and remote cancer sufferers need more local services, not less," Dr Maxwell said.

The full text of the RDAA statement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20chemo%20--%20lack%20of%20access%20the%20real%20killer%20--%20June%202006.htm

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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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GP TRAINING IN RURAL AUSTRALIA

Regional areas with a shortage of GPs may gain access to extra services under an expanded rural program for GP registrars.

Registrars training in rural areas will now be able to undertake some early GP training in regional centres where they could receive more support from other medical practitioners, before moving to smaller or remote towns. At present, registrars do all their GP training in small or remote towns but, from January 2007, they can choose to be based in regional centres during the first year of their training. The Rural Transition Program is an extension of a successful pilot conducted in Dubbo by General Practice Education and Training (GPET) which demonstrated that allowing registrars to train in regional areas increased the number of registrars applying to work in these areas. The new program will be run by regional training providers in Victoria, the Northern Territory, NSW, Queensland and Tasmania.

This new initiative is expected to attract about 17 additional registrars into regional areas in 2007. The program will be evaluated by GPET at the end of 2007.

The full statement by Health Minister Tony Abbott is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb090.htm

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Due to an overwhelming number of contributions this quarter, the National Rural Health Alliance produced three editions of PARTYline on the theme of recovery from depression.

One edition was produced jontly with beyondblue: the national depression initiative.

Hardcopy subscribers may have already received the two print editions n the mail.

Electronic subscribers can now access all three on our website at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine
If you have trouble with this link go to www.ruralhealth.org.au, then to the Publications and News link, then the PARTYline link. Please note: the electronic supplement contains additional material and is only available on our website.

Please let us know if your contact details change or if you no longer wish to receive PARTYline.

Contents of April 2006 editions

Issue 25 - joint NRHA/beyondblue edition (print copy)
* triathlete fights depression
* beyondblue initiatives in rural and remote areas
* personal stories of recovery from depression
* Indigenous mental health services
* support for people affected by depression
* managing depression in men, women and children

Issue 26 (print copy)
* Independent Living Centre goes bush
* the joys of Port Augusta
* personal stories of recovery from depression
* support services for people with depression
* support on incontinence, cancer counselling and road trauma

Issue 26 (electronic supplement)
* the value of local services
* General Practice mental health care
* depression in the alcohol and drug sector
* services for women and youth in rural areas
* Mental Health Script Program
* personal stories of recovery from depression

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FUNDING FOR RURAL PHARMACY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Commonwealth Government has announced several measures to enhance professional practice and services provided through community pharmacies under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement. The package includes $25 million over the life of the agreement for a variety of rural workforce programs, including undergraduate scholarships and internships, along with support for pharmacy academics and schools.

Full text of the announcement by Health Minister Tony Abbott is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb091.htm

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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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BEYOND PETROL SNIFFING: RENEWING HOPE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee tabled its unanimous report of its inquiry into petrol sniffing in remote Aboriginal communities.

For over twenty years petrol sniffing has been the subject of many reports, reviews, coronial inquiries and research projects. The reasons why young Indigenous people sniff petrol, the disruptive impact on Indigenous communities, and the severe health implications for individuals are well known and have been repeatedly addressed in all of the reports. The lack of progress in implementing recommendations contained in these reports has created much frustration and despair in communities.

The key components to solving the problems of petrol sniffing will be a holistic approach: a whole-of-government approach matched with on-going commitment and sustained funding of programs that engage Indigenous communities. The Commonwealth's Eight Point Regional Strategy for Central Australia, although restricted to a designated region in Central Australia, is an important initiative in addressing petrol sniffing. The Committee considers that the supply of Opal is vital to reducing petrol sniffing. Community-based programs and initiatives in Indigenous communities have proven to be one highly effective strategy in reducing the prevalence of petrol sniffing.

The full report is available at http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/petrol_sniffing/report/index.htm

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Extract from Australian Doctor E-NEWS

POLITICAL STORM OVER IMG PRACTICE BAN (14-Jun-2006)
An international medical graduate, who lost his registration for failing the RACGP fellowship, is at the centre of a political storm that has again raised questions about how willing rural communities are to accept doctors who haven't met Australian standards when the alternative is often no doctor.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/43/0C041443.asp

RDAA FEARS FOR FOREIGN DOCS (21-Jun-2006)
International medical graduates are being subjected to unnecessary and unsubstantiated complaints because of an expectation that they meet far higher standards than their Australian-trained colleagues, the RDAA has warned.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/32/0C041732.asp

COUNTRY HOSPITAL PLAN THREATENS GPS' VIABILITY (21-Jun-2006)
Rural GPs fear a move to allow small country hospitals to bulk-bill outpatients from 1 July could force many of them out of business.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/C3/0C0417C3.asp

BORN TO A NEW LIFE IN RURAL PRACTICE (21-Jun-2006)
WHINGE-FREE ZONE: SA GP Dr Graham Fleming has worked at Mid West Clinic in Tumby Bay for what he describes as "not long, only 27 years".
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/7C/0C04097C.asp

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DOCTORS WELCOME NATIONALS' PROPOSAL ON RURAL HOSPITAL FUNDING

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed a proposal by the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals, Mark Vaile MP, that the Australian Government's healthcare funding agreements with the states should include funding specifically for public hospitals in rural and regional areas.

"It is critical that this occurs if Australia's rural and regional hospitals, and their maternity and other procedural services, are to be saved from closure or downgrading and instead maintained and expanded," the RDAA said.

The full text of the RDAA statement is at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Doctors%20Welcome%20Nationals'%20Proposal%20on%20Rural%20Hospital%20Funding%20--%20June%202006.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

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Beazley a danger to rural health: Vaile
(Extract from farmonline, 13 June 2006)

Kim Beazley has been branded a danger to the health of rural Australians by Nationals Leader Mark Vaile. Mr Vaile says the Labor Leader has demonstrated he cares little about regional Australia by pledging to stop overseas doctors filling workforce shortages in the bush if he becomes Prime Minister.

"His pledge to abolish the skilled migrant's '457 visa' would stop State governments being able to employ skilled migrants in regional hospitals and would prevent local communities from recruiting foreign doctors and healthcare workers. And it appears Mr Beazley's own health spokesperson agrees with us; Julia Gillard said recently that the only short term way in many areas to make up that shortfall is to import doctors," Mr Vaile said.

The full article is available at http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=35089. Registration is required for accessing farmonline, but registration is free.

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NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

Awareness of risks of overweight among rural Australians
Obesity appears to be a significant threat to the health of rural communities in developed nations. This data from rural Queensland suggests the problem may be even worse than was prevously thought
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=514

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FELS' TASKFORCE MAKES SMART START ON 'SMARTCARD'

AMA President, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, said today that apart from longstanding concerns about privacy, security and confidentiality, the AMA is generally positive about the first discussion paper released by Professor Allan Fels' Access Card Consumer and Privacy Taskforce. Dr Haikerwal said the AMA remains strongly opposed to any moves to make the health and social services access card (the card formerly known as Smartcard) developing into a de facto national ID card, and the report addresses this concern to a degree.

“The recent watering down of privacy provisions in social security legislation shows that legislation may not offer adequate protection, and this is something the AMA will discuss with the Taskforce.

"Another key area is e-health functionality for the card into the future. We are comfortable with safeguards around the existing concept of the access card and the contemporary technology that supports it, but we feel more needs to be done to provide consumer confidence in possible future functions for the card and how its role and use will change with new technology.

The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6QW9DS

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ABS Research Paper: Analysis of the Regional Distribution of Relatively Disadvantaged Areas using 2001 SEIFA, Jun 2006
(ABS Cat 1351.0.55.013)

This paper investigates the geographical distribution of disadvantaged areas across Australia. We use the Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), in particular the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, to identify areas with relatively high proportions of people with characteristics associated with low socio-economic status.

While the majority of people living in disadvantaged CDs are in urban areas there is a proportional over-representation of disadvantaged CDs in remote areas. Only 2.7% of Australians live in remote or very remote areas but 13.7% of these are in disadvantaged CDs compared with 5.1% of people in major cities.

Details are available at http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1351.0.55.013Main+Features1Jun%202006?OpenDocument

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Growing Regions Conference
Hilton Brisbane, 25-27 July 2006 - Hosted by the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services and sponsored by RIRDC.

The Growing Regions Conference is the premier international regional development conference for 2006 and will present a unique opportunity to discover how different regions are addressing current, common issues across the world. It will offer those attending a chance to learn from sessions which place a strong emphasis on innovative approaches to
regional policy and research. For more details visit http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/growingregions

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From: Partridge, Michael
Subject: 2006 Health Outcomes Conference

HEALTH OUTCOMES 2006: MANAGING HEALTH AND DISEASE IN TODAY’S SOCIETY

12th Annual Health outcomes Conference
9 - 10 August 2006
Rydges Lakeside, Canberra, ACT
http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/ahoc/upcomingconference.html
michael.partridge@act.gov.au

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From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk
Subject: Registration for Rural Critical Care Conference

This year's Rural Critical Care Conference is taking place in Broken Hill, 25 & 26 August. The Conference is a forum focusing on the issues, clinical concepts and health initiatives
that affect hospital and pre-hospital clinicians in rural NSW. This annual Conference targets Registered and Enrolled Nurses, Medical Officers, Allied Health Care Workers and Ambulance Officers across Australia. It has a specific rural and remote health care focus and provides a forum to share and discuss initiatives and innovations in emergency and critical care practice.

Further information is available on the conference website http://www.ruralcriticalcare.asn.au

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NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2006
27 August-2 September

This Convention provides the chance for young adults (18-35) from all over Australia to come together for a week overflowing with personal and professional development opportunities that you can't find anywhere else. As well as visiting some of WA's most innovative agricultural and other rural development sites, there will be workshops, guest speakers and the Young Farmer Competition National Finals at the Dowerin Field Days.

We've recently finalised our program for the week which includes items to cater for diverse farming and non-farming interests. There's so much to see and do in the Wheatbelt region that even the locals will get something out of it. We are hoping that this will spur you all into action and get your registration forms in. We've got lots of interest already but we'd really like to hear from you by 1 July so we can confirm things like accommodation and catering for everyone. I'm really hoping that lots of WA people to get involved as it's such a great thing to be happening right here in our backyard.

This Convention will be a chance to show everyone just how motivated and capable young people are when it comes to keeping rural Australia alive and kicking. It's also a chance for participants to discuss issues facing and opportunities for, youth in rural and regional Australia as well as to learn some new life skills in various workshops offered throughout the week. It's not all about farming either and we've got lots on to cater for a broad range of interests. Some of the sessions we've got planned include:

* Welcome to the Wheatbelt - Being Australia's biggest wheat producing state we could hardly get away with not showing you around the Dowerin Field Days, innovative research and trial sites, fascinating historical sites such as the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia as well as our gorgeous Wheatbelt wildflowers. We'll spend all day on Thursday taking in some of the sights and delights of this vast but captivating region.
* Live Export Ship - Wellard Rural Exports have invited us to tour their live export ship (if there is one in port during the Convention week) in efforts to show us just how this industry operates and counter some of their negative press;
* Fire Management Skills - We have contacted our local Dept of Fire and Emergency Services who have offered to take participants through a practical fire safety workshop to better protect their homes and/or farms from fire - the workshop will include using a fire extinguishers to put out an alight couch (or something equally as impressive when on fire!) in a car park somewhere;
* Evening Events - The Convention does not stop the moment the sun goes down. Nights will also be utilised with a variety of sessions to promote self-development and networking. The Casino Night will focus on networking while also learning how to play a variety of card games commonly on offer at casinos - Ace Gambling provide services to corporate groups and games will be played with 'funny money'. We also have be working with Kompany M, a professional acting troupe, who will perform their humorous play 'The Gun' in a local shearing shed.

Other inclusions within our program are:
* Learning how to cook a special 'signature dish' to impress your next date;
* Showcase some of the innovative practices happening in WA's Wheatbelt including what's happening about bio-diesel research and visiting CSBP's cutting edge soil analysis laboratories;
* Take in some of the tasty delights of Heartlands growers from olive oil to yabbies to wine.

Sarah Anderson
Executive Officer
Western Australian Federation of Rural Youth
PO Box 473, Shackleton WA 6386
p. 08 9645 5004 or 0429 703 475 (limited mobile coverage so leave msg on office phone)
http://www.ruralyouthwa.org.au

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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).

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

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THE NATIONAL SARRAH CONFERENCE
Building bridges ….. Crossing borders
A Conference for Rural and Remote Allied Health Professionals
13 – 16 September 2006
Albury Convention Centre
ALBURY, NSW

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
PROGRAM AVAILABLE
Information available on the website – http://www.sarrah.org.au

The 2006 National SARRAH Conference
PO Box 74
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au or register@ruralhealth.org.au
Website:http://www.sarrah.org.au

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THE CONGRESS of ABORIGINAL and TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES (CATSIN)
8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Conference Theme: BACK TO THE FUTURE - The future is Ours!
WHERE: Tasmania
WHEN: 27th- 29th September 2006
VENUE: The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel.
REGISTRATION COST: $400.00

Students who have attended and been financially assisted at previous conferences ARE encouraged to apply again.

Student Nurse members of CATSIN are encouraged to attend and can apply to be financially assisted. Applications for financial assistance close 30th June 2006

Call For Abstracts
* Professional Issues
* Clinical Presentations
No more than 200 words please.

Roslyn Lockhart
CATSIN Project Officer
PO Box 124
Jerilderie
Ph/Fax: 03 58860505 Abstracts close 30th June 2006
Email: lockharr@bigpond.net.au
Conference Organisers:

WYETH Pharmaceuticals
Susan Day, Conference Manager
Locked Bag 5002 Baulkham Hills BC NW 2153
Ph: (02) 8850 8317 Fax: (02) 9023 0030 Email: days@wyeth.com

For Registration Forms and accommodation information, please contact the conference organisers. You can also find registration forms on the website at http://www.indiginet.com.au/catsin

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From: Simon Lansdown
Subject: Using Evidence Symposium, October 19-20 2006, Melbourne

The Using Evidence: Using Guidelines Symposium will provide health professionals and organisations with practical solutions for getting clinical practice guidelines into day-to-day practice, including:
* Knowing which guideline recommendations to focus on
* Understanding how to identify and address barriers to guideline implementation
* Selecting evidence-based interventions to implement guidelines
* Deciding the right indicators to measure uptake of guidelines and patient outcomes
* Planning the resources and support needed for guideline implementation.

Symposium Themes
FOCUS: How do we decide which guideline recommendations to tackle first?
BARRIERS: Why does our practice depart from best practice? Could we change?
IMPLEMENTATION: How do we select evidence-based interventions to implement guideline recommendations?
MEASUREMENT: How do we decide what to measure and what information to feed back, in order to support guideline implementation?

The symposium will be held at Melbourne's Langham Hotel with key note speakers Professor Susan Michie and Dr Brian Mittman and have workshops on a range of issues including how to identify and address barriers to guideline implementation.

For more information or to register your interest go to http://www.usingevidence.com.au

The Using Evidence: Using Guidelines Symposium is hosted by the National Institute of Clinical Studies.

Contact: Kylie Bierman
Event Coordinator
Ph: +61 3 8866 0400
Fax: +61 3 8866 0499
Email: info@nicsl.com.au
Website: www.nicsl.com.au

USING EVIDENCE: USING GUIDELINES SYMPOSIUM - ABSTRACTS NOW INVITED.
Visit http://www.usingevidence.com.au
Closing date for abstract submission is Monday 3 July 2006.

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AARN NATIONAL CONFERENCE
'Moving with the Times'
Contemporary issues in rural nursing practice
25 - 27 October 2006, Brisbane

See http://www.aarn.asn.au/whatsnew/conf.htm for details

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From: Michelle Magro
Subject: WHA & CHA CONFERENCE

The joint conference of Women's Hospitals Australasia and Children's Hospitals Australasia will be held at The Country Club Resort, in the delightful city of Launceston, Tasmania, 13-17 November this year.

This year's conference theme is TEAM and will explore how effective teams can significantly improve quality of care and service delivery. Given the increasing trend toward health service redesign, and a move away from hierarchical structures, the health care 'team' is probably the most important consideration in advancing healthcare over the next decade. As technology advances, skill mix needs change, workforce shortages increase the need for flexibility within the health workforce, and as consumer expectations increase they become a fundamental member of the healthcare team.

Monday 13 November: Clinical Forum 'CUBS' - (Care of Unwell Babies)
Tuesday 14 November: WHA Conference
Wednesday 15 November: Joint WHA & CHA Conference
Thursday 16 November: CHA Conference
Friday 17 November: Clinical Forum - Better Integration of Paediatric Acute & Community Care

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From: Michael Gleeson
Subject: ACRRM Call for Abstracts for the ACRRM 4th Scientific Forum

Medical practitioners, specialists, allied health professionals, academics and students are invited to submit abstracts for Australia's leading medical conference in health care in rural and remote settings.

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) will conduct its 4th Scientific Forum at the University of Adelaide on 16-19 November 2006 and will present research, forum discussions, plenary sessions and clinical workshops specifically on the practical implementation of Rural and Remote Medicine.

ACRRM Academic Director Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Chalmers said the conference content would examine the latest thinking and modern clinical practices for caring for Australians in regional and rural Australia.

She said the theme "Practising Rural and Remote Medicine – Moving Forward" captured the positive future for the discipline.

Assoc. Prof. Chalmers also said that speakers from a variety of professional groups would be invited to this year's conference, including indigenous health experts, nurses, medical specialists, and allied health practitioners, as each had an important role to play in the collaborative provision of medical care in the bush.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "DIVERSITY IN AGEING" ANNOUNCED FOR SYDNEY

The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) has announced it will hold its 2006 National Conference in Sydney during November. To be held 22 – 24 November 2006 at the Wesley Centre the Conference will focus on the theme 'Diversity in Ageing.'

The conference is the major annual activity of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG), which brings together professionals interested in promoting education and research into all aspects of ageing. The Association encourages cross disciplinary exchange of ideas amongst professionals including clinicians, therapists, social scientists, economists and demographers. The anticipated 350 delegates are expected to include medical practitioners, researchers, nurses, social workers, psychologists, social scientists, music therapists, economists, demographers, geographers and consumers interested in the field of ageing
research, education, service provision and policy.

Further information on the Conference is available on http://www.aag.asn.au/conference2006.htm or by contacting the Conference Managers on 1300 368 783 or email aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

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Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress 2006
Roroua Convention Centre, New Zealand, 6-10 December 2006

First Call for Abstracts
The theme of the conference is 'Rapu Oranga: In Pursuit of Excellence in Health'.
We are currently calling for abstracts to be submitted and are interested in the following topics that have relevance to Indigenous health:
• Traditional Healing
• Inequalities
• Methodological Development
• Research
• Ensuring our own health and well being
• Public health programmes and services
• Clinical services and programmes
• Indigenous providers
• Indigenous health Medical Curriculum
• Recruiting and retaining Indigenous peoples into medicine.

Abstracts addressing the overall theme ('Rapu Oranga: Striving for Excellence') in other indigenous health topics are also welcomed. We are particularly keen to hear from:
• Indigenous Medical Students
• Indigenous Physicians
• Welcome others to submit

If you are interested in presenting at Congress, submit abstracts online, as early as possible, but no later than Sunday 20 August 2006 at http://www.conference.co.nz/pridoc2006

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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 2,527 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.