Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 21 July 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 7 July 2006
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COAG's PLANS: COMPLEX, ENCOURAGING, IMPORTANT

The Communiqué from the Council of Australian Governments shows that there is at last a common understanding of the need for widespread reform of governments' involvement with health and wellbeing in Australia. The Communiqué covers an impressive range of issues, including a number that relate to Indigenous health and wellbeing. Rural and remote issues in general are not high on the agenda but the health of country people will certainly be improved in the long-term through a number of the proposals.

The full text of the NRHA statement is at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=MediaReleases&Year=2006 and is reprinted below

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OTHER COAG NEWS

The full text of the COAG communique is at http://www.coag.gov.au/meetings/140706/index.htm

The statement by Health Minister Tony Abbott is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb107.htm

The described the COAT agenda as a "blurred vision" which delivers in some areas but is seriously flawed in others. Most of the AMA's concerns are with the Health Workforce initiatives. The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6RPBBM

The Rural Doctors Association (RDAA) said that the COAG initiatives are good for
rural health. The RDAA statement is at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/COAG%20initiatives%20good%20for%20rural%20health%20--%20July%202006.htm

The Physiotherapy Association said that COAG's plan simply doesn't go far enough. The APA statement is at http://apa.advsol.com.au/

In a separate joint statement, the Australian Dental Association, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australian Physiotherapy Council, Australian Podiatry Council, Australian Psychological Society and OT AUSTRALIA welcomed the COAG decision to establish a single national registration board for health professionals, and congratulate the governments for retaining discipline-specific experts as the custodians of clinical standards and professional conduct of the respective health professions. The full text of the joint statement is at http://apa.advsol.com.au/

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9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Up to a thousand people will Stand Up for Rural and Remote Health at the 9th Conference in Albury next March.

Conference themes are:
1 Health across borders - State and professional (including developments along the Murray River). How teamwork is being developed across professional and disciplinary boundaries, and how quality is assured in inter-disciplinary work.

2 A focus on regional and local success stories in rural and remote health. What are their key characteristics and what contribution is made to them by IT and transport? Those relating to Indigenous health are of particular interest. And what have been the key issues where services have not been effective?

3 The politics and economics of early intervention: what are the political or professional constraints and where are the successes? What is the evidence for the benefits of early intervention, and are sufficient resources being directed to it?

4 How do we measure up in rural and remote areas on evidence, access and equity? What is the status of the evidence base in rural and remote health and what are the appropriate measures to be used? Where are the key research gaps? How do rural and remote health services compare across regions and with other nations?

5 What are the particular characteristics of chronic disease in rural and remote Australia: diabetes, obesity, oral and dental disease, mental illness and heart disease? What intervention and management systems work well, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people? What are the roles of screening and self-management systems? Can we overcome skill shortages relating to chronic disease?

6 Preparation for and community response to natural disasters. What are (or would be) the rural and remote aspects of drought, flood and fire, avian flu, foot and mouth? How prepared are we in country areas? What are the characteristics of communities and health services which make some regions more resilient?

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

Safety on the quad bike
They're handy for mustering stock or checking the irrigation pump and so common on farms that many of us probably start up and ride away without a second thought. But the ATV, quad, or four-wheel, bike can be extremely dangerous.
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2006/s1692909.htm

A LESSON IN SAFETY FOR YOUNG FARMERS
Tom Nightingale (Shepparton, VIC)
And while we're on the subject of staying healthy....are younger farmers a safer bunch than the older generations? It's been Farm Safety Week across the country.
About 150 people a year die in Australian farm accidents. Most are aged over 50.
There was another death this week, with a 77-year-old western Victorian man killed when a tank fell on him. Tom Nightingale visiting a training session for young farmers in north-central Victoria, and found the next generation is taking more notice of the safety messages.

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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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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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From: Alliedschol Scholarships
Subject: 2006 Semester 2 NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical PlacementGrants

Applications are now open for the 2006 Semester 2 NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants.

NSW Rural Allied Health Clinical Placement Grants have been created to assist both rural and urban allied health students with the travel and accommodation costs of rural clinical placements and provide students with opportunities to experience rural practice and lifestyle in NSW. Placement Grants of up to $650 (or $1,000 in the case of placements at Broken Hill) are offered during each semester.

Obtain an application form by:
* Downloading from www.health.nsw.gov.au/policy/ssdb/rural/allied_health
* Sending an email to alliedschol@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
* Calling 02 9391 9501

APPLICATIONS WILL CLOSE ON FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2006

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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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AIHW REPORTS

Psychology Labour Force 2003
This is the first AIHW report that presents statistics on the size and growth of registered psychologists in Australia. The report is based on the 2002-2003 AIHW surveys of psychologists in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Information presented in the report includes an overview of the number of psychologists, their demographic and work characteristics and supply; their main clients; and trends in the number of students completing undergraduate psychology courses. Registration numbers are used to show recent growth in the profession. The report then provides a profile of employed psychologists in each surveyed state and territory.
AIHW catalogue number HWL 34
Available from Can Print for $30 (1300 889 873).
Click on the link to view the media release
and report

Occupational Therapy Labour Force 2002-2003
Occupational therapists are allied health professionals who teach people how to return to normal activities after injury or illness, using therapy and rehabilitation. This report presents statistics on occupational therapists in Australia. It is based on the main findings of the 2002-2003 national surveys of occupational therapists. Information presented in the report includes an overview of the demographic characteristics of occupational therapist respondents, such as their age/sex profile, and their work characteristics, such as clinical specialty, work setting and hours worked.
AIHW catalogue number HWL 35
Available from Can Print for $20 (1300 889 873).
Click on the link to view the media release
and report

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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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BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR STORES SERVING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

FairStore , a best practice guide for businesses servicing Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas of Australia has been issued by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. "Through developing understanding and respect between store owners, operators and staff and the Indigenous communities the guide seeks to encourage businesses to develop and improve trading standards".

The full text of the ACCC statement is at http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/753420/fromItemId/2332 and the guide is available at http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/752707

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Extract from Australian Doctor E-NEWS

INNISFAIL SLOW TO RECOVER FROM CYCLONE (5-Jul-2006)
After a category five cyclone struck Innisfail in Queensland in March this year, GP Chris Tuttle told Australian Doctor he was "amazed at the destruction". Now, 90 days on, he says little has improved for the town.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/57/0C042057.asp

GENTLER TRANSITION INTO RURAL PRACTICE (5-Jul-2006)
GP registrars completing the rural training pathway will now be able to train in regional centres in their first year, in an attempt to ease their transition into rural medicine.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/7D/0C041F7D.asp

GPS END STRIKE, BUT DEMAND CHANGE (12-Jul-2006)
THE doctors of a sole general practice in a small NSW rural town have conditionally ended the strike they called after their practice was doused by petrol in an attempted arson attack.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/50/0C042450.asp

COAG TARGETS MENTAL HEALTH, WORKFORCE ISSUES (19-Jul-2006)
Health was one of the big areas targeted for reform by the Council of Australian Governments last week.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/19/0C042B19.asp

CHILDREN AND FARMS A DANGEROUS MIX (19-Jul-2006)
Children under 15 years account for 21% of all farm injuries, an Australian report suggests.
http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/articles/BD/0C0427BD.asp

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ABUSE CLAIMS 'OVERSTATED'
(Extract from news.com.au, July 14, 2006)

A SENIOR Northern Territory police officer has said claims of child sex abuse at a remote Aboriginal community have been overstated, after a taskforce found no evidence of abuse. A joint NT Police and Family and Community Services (FACS) taskforce has interviewed almost 300 people over claims of widespread child sexual abuse at Mutitjulu, an Aboriginal community at the base of Uluru.

NT Police Superintendent Colleen Gwynne said the taskforce had gathered a significant amount of information from a wide range of people, both in the NT and interstate, following claims aired on ABC TV.

"We have found some evidence of petrol being provided to children," Supt Gwynne said. "We haven't found any evidence of petrol being provided for sexual favours. There's certainly no evidence there that the petrol is being provided to entice children to provide sexual favours, none whatsoever."

Meanwhile the Federal Government has launched a new police taskforce to target indigenous violence and child abuse, using special powers previously directed at organised crime gangs. The Commonwealth and state and territory leaders signed off on the National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence taskforce at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Canberra.

The full text of the news item is at http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,19789145-28101,00.html

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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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PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA 2003-04
ABS 1380.0.55.003

These data cubes from the ABS show average weekly expenditures by households by broad geographic region in each State. The data show, for example, that:

* rural households spent an average of $850.79 per week in 2003-04, compared with $930.25 for metropolitan households

* as a share of income, rural households spent much less on housing (11.9% as against 17.3% in metropolitan areas) but more on transport (18.9% compared with 14.7%).

All ABS data is available at http://www.abs.gov.au

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SPREADING THE MESSAGE FOR CHILD SAFETY ON FARMS
(Extract from RIRDC Online - subscribe at martin.field@rirdc.gov.au?subject=RIRDC%20Online%20-%20Subscribe)

A workshop by the Farm Health and Safety Joint Research Venture has evaluated media campaigns targeting child safety on farms. Drawing on findings from focus groups, participants noted that the campaigns conducted by FarmSafe Australia had been successful in building awareness and changing behaviour, and suggested ways that they could
improved further. Speaking in support of the workshop Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Sussan Ley, said, "We must work towards ways of minimising the deaths associated with farm dams and fatal accidents with motor vehicles and tractors...If their efforts can save one child from a preventable death or accident, the
workshop will have been a success." More information at http://www.psmaff.gov.au/releases/06/06037sl.html
More reports from the Farm Health and Safety Joint Research Venture at http://www.rirdc.gov.au/fullreports/hcc.html#OHS

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NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

''The biggest worry..': research findings on pain management for Aboriginal peoples in Northern Territory, Australia'
How can we provide good palliative care if we don't understand our communities' perceptions of pain relief? This article outlines the views and beliefs of Aboriginal Australians living in remote communities in northern Australia.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=549

''They get a bit funny about going' – transfer issues for rural and remote Australian Aboriginal people'
Rural and remote health services rely on good transition systems wihen patients need transfer to tertiary facillities. This article describes the frustrations faced by Indigenous Australians when they need city-based care, and describes some simple solutions.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=536

'Funding sources and consequences: the subverting of an Indigenous community outreach program'
This article describes how an alcohol intervention program in a remote community came to focus on litter! Have similar events occurred in your rural community? This report opens an important area of enquiry, particularly in cross-cultural settings.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=542

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YEAR OF THE OUTBACK FOCUSES ON RURAL YOUTH

Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Year of the Outback Ambassador, Peter McGauran, said it was critical to hear first-hand the views, concerns and hopes young people have for the future in the Year of the Outback.

A series of workshops and surveys will be held around the country on the themes discussed at the inaugural National Young Farmers Forum held last September in Canberra, and the issues identified recently by the National Council of Young Farmers.

Mr McGauran said a $100,000 project, funded by the Federal Government, would develop recommendations that can be used by government, industry and rural communities to set realistic goals for the future and find solutions to issues currently affecting young people living in outback Australia.

Information on the workshop locations, and how to participate in the project's surveys, is available by calling 1800 686 175 or emailing industrypartnerships@daff.gov.au

The full text of Mr McGauran's statement is at http://www.maff.gov.au/releases/06/06093pm.htm

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Postnatal Depression – LIVE national satellite television broadcast

Tuesday 25th July 8:00pm EST (repeated Friday 28th July 12:30pm EST)

Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

This program will examine the causes, risks, management and support systems for women with Postnatal Depression, their children, partners and families.

After viewing this program, participants will be able to:

· Identify symptoms of postnatal depression
· Understand the causal role of physical, emotional, hormonal and social factors in postnatal depression
· Identify support mechanisms for new mothers and families
· Identify management and treatment options for women with postnatal depression
· Understand the risks (self harm, suicide, harm to baby, mental health problems) of postnatal depression

Panellist include Dr Norman Swan (Chair), Professor Philip Boyce, Dr Nicole Highet, Ms Lynore Geia, Dr Jenny May, Debbie Lawford.

Further details about the program visit http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/609/609.html

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From: Clair North
Subject: Subsidies are available to assist organisations in joining the Rural Health Education Foundation satellite network

The Foundation is pleased to announce that subsidies are again available to rural and remote health and medical organisations which wish to join the network. The funding has been provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to provide hardware that will enable access to the Foundation's satellite network and view their medical education broadcasts.

Information about the network and application criteria can be found on the Foundation website www.rhef.com.au or by contacting the Foundation via email at rhef@rhef.com.au or by phone on (02) 6232 5480.

Applications close 7th August 2006.

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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 and 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.

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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SEGRA 2006 - SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA
Tenth National Conference
28-30 August 2006
Launceston, Tasmania
Registration Hotline: (07) 3210-0021
info@segra.com.au
http://www.segra.com.au/segra

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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

Roslyn Lockhart
CATSIN Project Officer
PO Box 124
Jerilderie
Ph/Fax: 03 58860505
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

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

We hope that Health Workers throughout Australia will organise something during the Week, whether it is a big event or a more modest activity. 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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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 2,533 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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Media Release
15 July 2006
COAG's plans: complex, encouraging, important

The Communiqué from the Council of Australian Governments shows that there is at last a common understanding of the need for widespread reform of governments' involvement with health and wellbeing in Australia. The Communiqué covers an impressive range of issues, including a number that relate to Indigenous health and wellbeing. Rural and remote issues in general are not high on the agenda but the health of country people will certainly be improved in the long-term through a number of the proposals.

John Wakerman, Chairperson of the NRHA, acknowledged the leadership of the States and Territories and their obvious enthusiasm for joint work with the Commonwealth.

"In the health sector there is such a history of discord between governments that yesterday's collaborative outcome feels like a breath of fresh air. We are still concerned about the absence of a strategic framework for developments in the interdisciplinary health team, and the lack of a long-term vision for rural and remote areas. But the plan outlined yesterday is broad and focused on some of the key health priorities," he said.

Dr Wakerman said the Alliance is keen to see the detailed proposals for mental health services in regional, rural and remote areas. "We must be careful to ensure that any additional incentives for training and practice in mental health do not have the perverse effect of draining even more mental health workers from rural areas."

"The special focus on chronic diseases is sensible and important. The promise to reduce the prevalence of key risk factors contributing to chronic disease looks terrific. We would like to see the fine print and help make sure that rural and remote issues are properly accounted for," Dr Wakerman said.

"We also have a very strong and obvious interest in the commitment to provide options to improve service delivery in rural and remote areas by the end of 2006. This is presumably a reference to the Federal Budget initiatives for selected towns of less than 7,000. The Alliance is very keen to support the development and roll-out of these plans."

"Following this breath of fresh air, governments now face two challenges. To convert commitments into action on the ground, without letting any of the 'fine print' slow them down. And to ensure that there is a high level of consultation on implementation with people from the professional groups and the areas that will be affected."

Rural people will be glad to know that one of the six members of the new COAG Reform Council will have 'regional and remote experience'.

The Alliance also has a particular interest in:
* the enhanced infrastructure, and broader system, for placement and postgraduate training of the extra medical and nursing students;
* increased rural exposure in the training of medical specialists;
* the references to special incentives for the training of dentists (the Alliance wants to see the Commonwealth involved in this as well as the States);
* the promise of "better consultation" between the States and Commonwealth on health-related university places;
* a single national registration scheme for health professionals and the fact that "other professional groups (including Aboriginal Health Workers) may be added over time";
* a single national accreditation scheme for health education and training;
* a national process for the assessment of overseas-trained doctors;
* the Commonwealth's intention to provide rural medicine with formal recognition under Medicare as a generalist discipline; and, most importantly,
* the initiatives relating directly to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people, such as governments' "long-term, generational commitment" to overcome Indigenous disadvantage, the commitment to closing the health, education and learning gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children, and further measures to address alcohol and substance misuse, including through additional resources for treatment and rehabilitation services in regional and remote areas.