Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 4 August 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 4 August 2006
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LATEST NRHA POLICY PORTION: Patient Transport and Accommodation Assistance
People living in rural and remote Australia suffer worse health outcomes than their city colleagues, and barriers to specialist and tertiary care contribute to this situation. Health care should be distributed according to health need, and people in more remote areas should not be disadvantaged merely because of where they live.

LATEST NRHA POLICY PORTION: Food Secuirty
Poor nutrition in early life is associated with poor health (including chronic disease) in later life. This risk is especially real for people in remote areas, because of the logistical difficulty of getting fresh food there at affordable prices. The challenge is particularly acute for Indigenous people living in remote communities that often have very poor infrastructure and limited local economic opportunities. For some of them poor access to food and poor nutrition continue throughout life.

Both documents available at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=LatestNews

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From: Shelagh Lowe
Subject: Postgraduate scholarships (ARRHPS) open for application

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme is now open for application. Qualified, practicing rural and remote allied health professionals are able to apply for scholarship funding to support them to undertake a continuing professional education activity such as:
* attendance at a conference (remember the National Rural Health Conference is in March 2007; or discipline specific conferences occurring in 2007);
* short courses;
* individual clinical placements (do you want to upgrade your skills in a particular area by visiting a metropolitan specialist clinic in that area and undertaking a placement); and
* formal postgraduate qualifications.

The application package including application form and scholarship guidelines can be downloaded from the SARRAH website - http://www.sarrah.org.au/Scholarship/PostGraduate.asp

You are encouraged to apply online as this greatly assists the SARRAH staff to process the application form information. This facility will be available within the next couple of days. Closing date for applications is the 15th September 2006

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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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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.ruralhealth.org.au/conferences/sarrah2006/home.htm

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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From: Jean Wyldbore
Subject: Special Announcement - Rural Victorian Alcohol & Other Drug Conference - Warrnambool Vic - August 2006

Colleagues! Make it happen!
Rural Victorian Alcohol & Drug Conference 2006 – August 9, 10, 11 – Warrnambool, Victoria

One of the best aspects of being in the Chair for this Conference is the opportunity to extend an invitation to workers and students throughout the rural AoD sector to participate in this unique event. The Rural Victorian Alcohol & Drug Conference is the only such event in Australia, and we are proud to bring you the seventh Conference since 1999. For program details, registration forms and expo, financial assistance and Awards info – go to http://www.rvadc.wrad.org.au

Last year's Conference focused on change in the sector. The title of this year's Conference is 'Make it happen!', and we are bringing a range of terrific and notable speakers and workshop leaders to South West Victoria to help you do just that. Our conference theme will explore:
* collaborative partnerships to achieve best practice outcomes
* using current research, practice and trends to develop strategies which will shape the future of rural A&D service provision.

The Conference will also spotlight some of the differences and commonalities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous AoD services and issues, and young people and AoD in rural areas.

We anticipate another moving and stimulating Consumer Perspective plenary, this time with a group of courageous people who have been or are in treatment in rural areas. Once again we are offering a workshop with Professor Sohail Inayatullah, our Futurist-in-Residence. If last year you missed his workshop, then get your booking in NOW for this year – places are limited for this intensive and inspiring Conference Satellite on 9 August.

None of this would have been possible without the generous assistance of the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing, the AER Foundation Ltd, the Department of Human Services (Victoria), and VicHealth. Their support means that we can also offer a meaningful Conference Attendance Support Program to workers, students and agencies that do not have huge reserves of cash for Professional Development activities.

I invite you to make sure you meet and talk with representatives of the Conference Sponsors and Partners during the event.

This year's Conference also marks a further exciting shift in focus. Your Conference Committee is aiming to take RVADC to national status over the coming five years. We invite you along for the ride, and welcome your support!

I look forward very much to welcoming you to the Conference, and participating with you in an exciting, challenging, informative and enjoyable two (or three!) days. Let's make it happen!

Jean Wyldbore
Chair – 2006 Rural Victorian Alcohol & Drug Conference – Make it happen!

Special note: Because of technical problems, we were unable to get notices about the Conference out in time for people to take advantage of the 'Early Bird' rates. SO – ALL REGISTRATIONS WILL BE AT THE EARLY BIRD RATE!!! Take this terrific opportunity to attend the only rural AoD Conference in Australia at a reduced rate – get to that website and book NOW! http://www.rvadc.wrad.org.au

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

THE BUSY LIFE OF A RURAL DOCTOR
Kate Stowell (Sale, VIC)
As we know, there's a desperate shortage of doctors in regional Australia.They work long hours, have to be on call for the local hospital, lack support from specialists, and struggle to take holidays. Why would anyone want to do it? Doctor Phil Worboys has been a general practitioner at Foster, in Victoria's South Gippsland region, for 14 years, and says he has the best job in the world.

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Rash Decisions: Dermatology in General Practice

LIVE national satellite television broadcast
Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation

Tuesday 15th August 8:00pm EST (repeated Friday 18th August 12:30pm EST)

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

This program examines the principles of skin disease management with a particular focus on some of the most common presentations. Case studies will look at the assessment, diagnosis and ongoing management of contact dermatitis, psoriasis, scabies, acne and eczema.

After viewing this program, participants will be able to:

* Demonstrate increased knowledge of the principles of skin disease management
* Outline indicators and appropriate application for dermatological investigations
* Increase ability to recognise and appropriately treat common disorders of the skin
* Identify technology and resources that may enhance the diagnosis and management of dermatologic conditions for rural and remote patients
* Understand the potential mental health implications for patients with dermatologic disorders

Panellist include Dr Norman Swan (Chair), Dr Stephen Shumack, Dr Jim Muir, Professor Graham Martin

Further details about the program visit http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/610/610.html

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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 August 2006 issue of the journal is available online now at http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr. Articles include:
* Treating acute mental illness in rural general hospitals: Necessity or choice?
* Community participation in organising rural general practice: Is it sustainable?
* Co-morbid drug and alcohol and mental health issues in a rural New South Wales Area Health Service
* Statistical methods for analysis of repeated measures on maternal morbidity
* An outbreak of acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis in remote Far North Queensland
* Hearing loss in recreational shooters in Central Queensland: A pilot study
* Letters to the Editor
* Grazings

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NEW STEPS TO IMPROVE INDIGENOUS HEALTH IN FAR NORTH

The Australian and Queensland Governments have announced a number of new initiatives to improve the health of Indigenous people in the Torres Strait and far North Queensland. They are:
* A new health agreement for the Torres Strait region, signed today by Commonwealth and state health ministers and representatives of the Torres Strait community
* a new chronic disease centre on Thursday Island
* an asthma spacer program to improve treatment for Indigenous children.

The statement by health Minister Tony Abbott is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb111.htm and the statement by Queensland health Minister Stephen Robertson is at http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=47424

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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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COUNTRY HOSPITALS MUST BE KEPT VIABLE - AMA

The AMA's Rural Reference Group (AMARRG) has called on all Australian governments to do whatever it takes to keep country public hospitals operating and properly resourced and staffed. AMARRG Chair, Dr David Rivett, said it is not right that country people should be treated as second-class citizens when it comes to their health and the health of their families.

The full text of the AMA statement is at http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6S27CC

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August PARTYLine now available at http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhapublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine. Contents include:
* medical students Kimberley style
* core services close to home
* oral and dental health
* housing and remote podiarty
* investing in remote communities
* choice and access in education
* fresh food and remote transport
* Rown Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship
* an Indigenous Outstations policy
* US recruitment and retention initiatives
* friends photographic festival
* 9th Conference update
* a photographic tribute to rural pets

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AIHW REPORTS

Many cardiovascular hospitalisations and deaths tied to socioeconomic differences
Thousands of hospitalisations and deaths from cardiovascular disease, particularly coronary heart disease and stroke, could be avoided if rates among the least advantaged were the same as those from the more socioeconomically advantages areas of Australia. In 2002, adults from the most disadvantaged areas of Australia (areas characterised by low income, low educational attainment and unemployment) had significantly higher death rates from cardiovascular disease (CVD), coronary heart disease (CHD) and stroke than adults from the least disadvantaged areas - between 1.6 and 1.9 times as high.
The AIHW statement is at http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060802.cfm and the full report at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10307

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NETWORKING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
(Extract from The Update, 2 August 2006. Subscribe by email to adamcr33d@netspace.net.au)

Research will take place into how the use of technologies such as laptops, video conferencing and satellite Internet connections, could improve vocational and technical education opportunities for Indigenous communities across Australia. The project includes a trial of distance learning in western Queensland. An education centre will be established to deliver the skills needed for Indigenous people wanting to enter the mining, construction or engineering fields.

Further information is at
http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/go/home/news/cache/bypass?sector=latest&id=1812

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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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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Health Ministers met in Brisbane on 27 July to discuss a range of priority health issues including Remote Area Renal Services, National Health Call Centres, Pandemic Influenza, Childhood Obesity, Quality and Safety, and a range of Health Workforce issues.

Some of the decisions of the meeting include:
* agreement to create a National Call Centre Network (NHCCN)
* removal of legislative barriers to electronic prescribing and dispensing of medicines.
* endorsemnt of the third and final phase of the Remote Area Renal Services for Indigenous Australians project which has focused on the development of national service guidelines for the management of dialysis and kidney transplantation for Indigenous Australians living in remote Australia.
* noting that recruitment and retention of the oral health workforce continues to be problematic especially in regional and rural areas, State and Territory Ministers asked the Commonwealth to identify if the requirement of 300 additional graduates will be achieved by January 2007 as outlined in the National Oral Health Plan, ensure that 90 per cent of fee paying students are domestic, and extend scholarships and cadetships for oral health practitioners and introducing bonded dental places of areas of workforce shortage.

The full text of the conference communique is at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/yr2006-jointcom-jc003.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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From: Mcalpin, Susan
Subject: International Rural Network World Rural Forum

The International Rural Network World Rural Forum, India, Late Jan-Early Feb 2008: Innovation for Sustainable Local Development.

The main focus of the Forum will be on innovation in education, health, resource management, governance, and sustainable development to improve the quality of life of rural people and reduce rural poverty and social exclusion.

The forum will be based in the beautiful rural town of Udaipur, Rajasthan, which is also the home of IRN Board Member Lakshmi Murthy.

The Forum will involve five days, with at least one day (or equivalent) in local field visits to see the relevant work of NGOs etc. There are likely to be optional additional visits after the Forum either to the famous Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat and/or to the equally famous Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan.

The date of the conference will be around the end of January or beginning of February 2008. If you are interested, please check out our website at http://www.International-Rural-Network.org and email Nicola.swan@btinternet.com to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

IRN Aims
Poverty and disadvantage is a common feature of rural areas and people across the world. This is explicitly recognised in the UN Millennium Development Goals. By providing a global forum for academics, practitioners, NGOs and policy makers concerned with sustainable rural development, education and health, the IRN aims to stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas, and create regional and global support networks. In this way it helps to develop a storehouse of knowledge and expertise on rural concerns, and to raise the profile and policy impacts of rural people, their NGOs and other organisations aiming for local empowerment, engagement, and supporting activities including policies.

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NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Consultations in general practice and at an Aboriginal community controlled health service: do they differ?'
Aboriginal community controlled health services provide care to a significant number of Indigenous Australians in rural and remote communities. This article provides helpful data on the consultation profile of these practices.
http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=560

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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 http://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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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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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 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 4th Scientific Forum

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.

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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 2,535 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.