

# Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 18 August 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 18 August 2006

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation  
Subject: Chronic Renal Disease - 22nd August 2006

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

Tuesday 22nd August 8:00pm EST  
(also Friday 25th August 12:30pm EST)

This program examines the continuum of CKD, identifies risk factors and discusses what management plans should be triggered by these risk factors. Primary prevention models for the management of CKD, and treatment strategies across the continuum of disease will be included.

The program also examines what has been learnt from CKD interventions in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and how this knowledge can be transferred and applied more broadly.

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National.  
Dr Alan Cass, Director, Policy and Practice Division, the George Institute for International Health, Sydney.  
Dr Paul Snelling, Nephrologist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney & President ANZ College of Nephrology.  
Ms Lesley Salem, Nurse Practitioner Nephrology, NSW.  
Ms Carmel Crosby, Area Dietitian, North Coast Area Health Service.  
Dr Emil Djakic, Rural General Practitioner, Ulverstone, Tasmania & Chair, North West Division.

For details about the program visit <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/508/508.html>

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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  
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Email: [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)



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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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NEW MEDICARE SYSTEM A "WIN-WIN FOR RURAL DOCTORS AND PATIENTS"

A new system that will enable patients to claim Medicare rebates electronically before they leave their doctor's surgery will benefit rural doctors and their patients alike, according to the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA). The RDAA statement is at [http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/New%20Medicare%20system%20a%20win-win%20for%20rural%20doctors%20and%20patients%20--%20August%202006.htm](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/New%20Medicare%20system%20a%20win-win%20for%20rural%20doctors%20and%20patients%20--%20August%202006.htm)

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August PARTYLine now available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhpublic/Index.cfm?Category=PartyLine>. Contents include:

- \* medical students Kimberley style
- \* core services close to home
- \* oral and dental health
- \* housing and remote podiatry
- \* 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 REPORT

Children's dental health good, but needs brushing up in poorer areas

Children's dental health in Australia is better than many other countries, according to the AIHW report "Socioeconomic differences in children's dental health: The Child Dental Health Survey, Australia 2001" but children from disadvantaged socioeconomic areas have poorer dental health than other Australian children.

The more socioeconomically advantaged the metropolitan children were, the fewer decayed, missing and filled teeth they had. However, for rural and remote children there was no such gradient and only those in the best-off areas had an advantage in their dental health.

The AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060817.cfm> and the full report is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10277>

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INDEMNITY FIX SHOULD HELP ATTRACT MORE NSW RURAL DOCTORS

(Extract from farmonline, <http://www.farmonline.com.au> - free registration is required)  
9 August 2006

NSW Government action to fix a loophole in indemnity cover for private patients in rural NSW hospitals will save these hospitals millions of dollars in lost revenue. Indemnity insurance cover previously had been considered uneconomic by most rural doctors working in small NSW hospitals.

President of the Rural Doctors Association of NSW (RDA NSW), Dr Les Woollard, said today, "These hospitals will now be able to access much-needed income from private health funds for procedures undertaken for private patients.

"NSW Treasury Managed Fund will now provide indemnity cover for all patients in small NSW rural hospitals—not just public patients. This fixes an anomaly that had been denying income from private health funds to small rural hospitals staffed by multi-skilled procedural GPs and specialists.

The full article is available at [http://www.farmonline.com.au/news\\_daily.asp?ag\\_id=36445](http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=36445)

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LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service

Lifeline's Just ask is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit <http://www.justask.org.au> and further information is available at [national@lifeline.org.au](mailto:national@lifeline.org.au) and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>



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.

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Western Australian Federation of Rural Youth  
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<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](mailto:info@segra.com.au)  
<http://www.segra.com.au/segra>

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From: AllieSchol 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](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policy/ssdb/rural/allied_health)
  - \* Sending an email to [alliedschol@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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







