

Tuesday 12th September 2006 8:00pm EST
(also Friday 15th September 12:30pm EST)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is increasingly being diagnosed in Australian children. Consequently rural GPs are having to deal with the issues and associated problems that come with the diagnosis.

This program examines the complexities of this disability and the benefit of early intervention. It also identifies the key issues facing carers and the barriers to receiving services and support.

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National.
Professor Bruce Tonge, Psychiatrist, Head of Department, Psychological Medicine, Monash University VIC.
Dr Verity Bottroff, Educationalist, Department of Disability Studies, Flinders University SA.
Dr Clare Cunningham, Paediatrician, Tumbatin Clinic, Sydney Childrens' Hospital.
Dr Anthony Warren, Director Outreach and Consultancy, Autism NSW.
Dr Bill Walton, General Practitioner, Wodonga VIC.
Ms Judy Brewer Fischer, Parent, Chair, National Family Carers Voice (NFCV).

For details about the program visit <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/502/502.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
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/sarra2006/home.htm>

The 2006 National SARRAH Conference
PO Box 74
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
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Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au or register@ruralhealth.org.au
Website: <http://www.sarra2006.org.au>

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From: Robyn Metcalfe
Sent: Thursday, 24 August 2006 10:41 AM
To: Gordon Gregory
Subject: "Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and Gestational Diabetes - what can we do"

Live national videoconference - Access Australia-wide - Easy registration
Wednesday 11th October 6.30pm - 8.30pm (EST)
6.00pm for 6.30pm start.

Presenters:
Professor Helena Teede,
Endocrinologist, Director of Research - The Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's Health
Assoc Prof Beverley Vollenhoven,
Head of Gynaecology, Southern Health, Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility Specialist

Topics:
- Infertility - Update understanding and practice
- Insulin resistance and Metformin therapy
- Metabolic syndrome
- Diabetes risk
- Potential increased CVD risk
- Recent advances in causes, therapies and prevention of long term complications
- Mood and anxiety disorders

Easy registration
Call 03 9927 7777 or email events@telehealth.com.au or online at www.telehealth.com.au.
Register at a site of your choice. Individual site registrations essential.
The first 15 remote sites to register are free!
For further content information call Robyn Metcalfe at the Foundation on 1800 151 441 or email robyn.metcalfe@jeanhailes.org.au.

Information on how to register your site to participate is available at http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/health_prof/hp_edu_gth.htm.

Download a copy of the event flyer http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/health_prof/documents/2006_gthoct11_flyer.pdf

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From: Sonia Woolley
Subject: Women's & Children's Hospitals Australasia Annual Conference, Launceston Tasmania - November 2006

The Women's & Children's Hospitals Australasia Conference is to be held in Launceston, Tasmania from 13 - 17 November 2006.
Registration and accommodation booking forms can be found on our website http://www.wcha.asn.au/index.cfm/spid/1_28.cfm

I would be grateful if you could pass this information onto any of your colleagues who may have an interest in attending our Conference.

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

A focus on youth in the Year of the Outback.
Youth is the focus of this Year of the Outback and workshops are being held around the country in August and September to identify their major issues.
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2006/s1722846.htm>

The World Today - Remote communities call for healthy food subsidy
The World Today - Friday, 25 August, 2006 12:46:00
Community leaders in South Australia's remote north say food prices in the region have reached such exorbitant levels that they are threatening the health of a whole generation of children. <http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2006/s1724538.htm>

DRUNK AND HALF ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
Alice Plate (National Rural Reporter)
A survey of regional drivers has found high rates of complacency when it comes to drink driving, driving while fatigued and speeding in rural areas. AAMI insurers interviewed 2,500 motorists in a national telephone poll about the three main factors that lead to road deaths.
It found 40 per cent of people surveyed have probably driven when over the legal alcohol limit, with the worst areas in central Victoria, north Queensland and the Gold Coast. About 30 per cent of people have momentarily fallen asleep at the wheel, while most have exceeded the speed limit. Professor Craig Veitch, from James Cook University is a principal investigator for a five-year north Queensland road crash study, which is looking at these issues and hopes to roll out recommendations nationally.
He says, sadly, that these figures are not unusual and there's more data to show drink driving is still very socially acceptable. So, if the number of fatalities on our roads isn't falling, are road safety campaigns not working? Prof Veitch says most people they've interviewed only remember the 'Bloody Idiot' campaign conducted 10 years ago, and current education campaigns aren't working.

RURAL IMMIGRANT WOMEN AT PARTICULAR RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Melanie Sim (Shepparton, VIC)
Domestic violence is a taboo subject in rural areas, but families in the country are at just a much risk as in the city. A new report called "The right to be safe from Domestic Violence - immigrant and refugee women in rural Victoria" has found that there are several barriers to migrant women accessing services that they might need in a domestic violence situation. They include the language barrier, fear of police, and the reluctance to see someone from their own ethnic community, as they are worried the worker might "gossip".
Executive officer of the Immigrant Women's Domestic Violence Service, Diana Orlando, says

