



- \* Cultural diversity, marginality and social exclusion
- \* Comparisons across social groups
- \* Comparisons between strategies

How are the lessons that can be learned from those with lived experience and those bereaved by suicide able to be used to better understand and reduce the risk of suicide?

- \* Nothing about us without us
- \* Narratives of suicidality and suicide prevention
- \* Creating or reviving partnerships that work
- \* Commonalities and differences between those with lived experience and those bereaved by suicide
- \* Meeting the needs of those bereaved by suicide – what are the challenges and how are they best addressed?

There are some traditional barriers between those engaged in service delivery and those involved in research. What recent initiatives are crossing these boundaries to generate better partnerships and outcomes? And how can institutions, the private sector and community be better engaged and involved in meeting this challenge?

- \* Research and Practice- When the Marriage Works
- \* Breaking down sector boundaries: Engaging the Unengaged
- \* Roles, development and reform in the community and private sector in an era of scarce resources
- \* Partnerships with Mental Health Services – Making It Work to Prevent Suicide
- \* Standards for services
- \* Training and skills building

Much is said about best practice and evidence based knowledge. What are the criteria by which such labels can be applied and how much evidence is enough?

- \* What is evidence?: the politics of evidence
- \* Practice-based evidence
- \* The challenge of evaluation, e.g. when is evaluation research?
- \* Evaluation in an era of scarce resources

Contact Details

Suicide Prevention Australia  
 PO Box 729  
 Leichhardt NSW 2040  
 Phone +(612) 9568 3111  
 Faxes +(612) 9568 3511  
 Email: spainfo@bigpond.com  
 Website: <http://www.suicidepreventionaust.org>  
 On-line Registration Form is at [http://www.suicidepreventionaust.org/corp\\_conference\\_2006\\_form.php](http://www.suicidepreventionaust.org/corp_conference_2006_form.php)

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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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INDIGENOUS DOCTORS CELEBRATE POSITIVE HEALING IN ALICE

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) is holding its Annual Health Symposium at the Crowne Plaza in Alice Springs on Saturday 30th September 2006. The theme Family, Community, Country, celebrates the many ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, nurses, health workers, traditional healers, allied health workers, educators, academics, policy makers and more, are taking positive action to improve the health and wellbeing of our people and all Australians, across the nation. Further information is at <http://www.aida.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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From: Relate Human Services  
 Subject: ACCFPP Conference 2007 - Call for Papers

You are invited to attend the second national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Melbourne - 19 to 21 May 2007 at the Victoria Hotel, Little Collins Street.

The conference theme "Borders and Bridges" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Diverse state data collection systems and differences in risk and safety assessment supply the foundation of a lack of systematic planning. Workforce roles are similar but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the

three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

The Conference secretariat is based at the Mackay Offices of Relate Human Services, PO Box 1401, Mackay 4740, Phone 07-49575400 Fax 07-49575488 Email: accfpp@bigpond.net.au http://www.relatehumanservices.com.au

On behalf of the organising committee we invite you to submit an abstract for evaluation for presentation at the Conference. Abstracts are due by December 31, 2006. Authors are invited to submit abstracts for oral papers, workshops and posters. The 250 word abstract should outline the aims and content of the presentation and must be submitted electronically. You must also identify your preferred presentation process but may be asked to consider an alternative format by the programme committee. Early bird Registration closes 1 March, 2007

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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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ABS Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas: Introduction, Use and Future Directions, Sep 2006 (Cat no 1351.0.55.015)

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are measures which summarise a range of socio-economic variables associated with disadvantage. Using data from the National Health Survey 2004-05, we show that SEIFA scores correlate with the proportion of people living in an area who report poor health, obesity and other health risk factors. The publication is available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1351.0.55.015Main+Features1Sep%202006?OpenDocument>

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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>

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE HEART ATTACKS, LESS LIKELY TO RECEIVE MEDICAL PROCEDURES

A new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reveals some concerning statistics about heart attacks and treatment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The report found that compared with other Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had three times the rate of a 'major coronary events' such as heart attacks. When admitted to hospital for coronary heart disease Indigenous Australians had:

- \* More than twice the chance of dying in hospital
- \* A 40% lower rate of being investigated by angiography
- \* A 40% lower rate of coronary angioplasty or stent procedures
- \* A 20% lower rate of coronary bypass surgery.

The full text of the AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060927.cfm> and the publication is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10266>. A summary booklet is also available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10364>

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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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HEALTH SPENDING GROWS 10% TO \$87 BILLION

Health expenditure in Australia was \$87.3 billion in 2004-05, according to a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Head of the Institute's Expenditure and Economics Unit, Mr John Goss, said that total growth since 2003-04 was about 10%, or 6%

adjusted for inflation and that average health services expenditure was up \$361 per person to \$4,319.

The report, Health expenditure Australia 2004-05, shows that as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expenditure on health increased to 9.8%, up from 9.4% in 2003-04 and 8.1% in 1994-95.

'Australia's health expenditure to GDP ratio is comparable to Canada, Austria and Norway. It is more than the UK and New Zealand, and considerably lower than the USA which in 2004 was 15.3% of GDP,' Mr Goss said.

The AIHW statement is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20060929.cfm> and the full report at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10350>

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**RURAL WOMEN DESERVE BETTER ACCESS TO ULTRASOUND**

State governments must urgently improve access to advanced ultrasound services in rural communities, particularly for pregnant women, according to the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA).

A recent review of genetic screening across the states and territories, undertaken by the WA Department of Health and University of Western Australia—while not comparing screening rates between metropolitan and rural areas—has highlighted the need for a national consensus policy on best practice guidelines and standards in relation to prenatal screening. The review has been published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The full text of the RDAA statement is at [http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/ACFF24C.htm](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACFF24C.htm)

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From: Fiona Mitchell  
Subject: Port Adelaide Defender Backs Rural Pharmacy Recruitment Campaign

Port Adelaide defender, Darryl Wakelin, has thrown his weight behind a campaign to encourage more rural and regional students to choose pharmacy as a career. The campaign is an ongoing initiative by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing designed to address the shortage of rural and regional pharmacists. It encourages students from country areas to study pharmacy in the expectation they are more likely to take up rural employment after graduation.

The campaign includes a television commercial featuring radio personality Adam Spencer which will air in rural and regional areas, supported by the distribution of around 10,000 brochures throughout non-metropolitan high schools, specialist indigenous press and radio advertising. Thirty scholarships at \$10,000 per annum are available to support students from rural communities to undertake studies in pharmacy. Additionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students may be eligible for scholarships of \$15,000 per annum.

The full statement is at <http://www.guild.org.au/public/currentissues/20060915DarrylWakelin.pdf>

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**RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB**  
(from <http://www.googlealert.com>)

Rural health. Farmers have a unique set of health concerns. Browse this section for information that can help keep you and your family healthy. ...  
<http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/1156446580769.xml>

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**PREVENTING DEATH AND INJURY FROM FARM MACHINERY ACCIDENTS**

Farm machinery is major cause of accidental injury and death on Australian farms, and a series of reports from the Farm Health and Safety Joint Research Venture have identified areas of risk and ways of avoiding accidents for a range of specific items of farm machinery. In all cases, being aware of the risk of accidental injury or fatality is a starting point for making work involving farm machinery safer. Details are at [http://www.rirdc.gov.au/pub/media\\_releases/22sept06.html](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/pub/media_releases/22sept06.html)

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**ALP CALLS FOR BETTER INCENTIVES FOR DOCTORS**

ALP Health spokesperson Julia Gillard has called for better incentives to get doctors to communities in need and better support to keep them there. The full text of Ms Gillard's comments is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0906/rihea150.php>

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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](mailto: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: 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.

Details are at <http://www.acrrm.org.au/main.asp?NodeID=19252>

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

Information at <http://www.conference.co.nz/pridoc2006>

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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](mailto: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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**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](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au) (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto: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 2,540 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.