

Eforum Newsletter: NRHA eforum 27 October 2006

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 27 October 2006

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LET'S BITE THE BULLET ON ORAL AND DENTAL HEALTH

With national leadership and affordable new expenditure, Australia could fix the terrible state of oral and dental health among its adults. The Alliance is a strong supporter of the campaign promoted by ACOSS and the Australian Dental Association because people in rural and remote areas are among the worst-served and worst-affected with regard to oral and dental health. The NRHA's number one priority presented to Minister Abbott last week was to improve access to dentists for rural people. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/nrhpublic/Index.cfm?Category=LatestNews> and is reprinted below.

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NRHA UPDATE

The Alliance's latest position paper 'Principles for maternity services in rural and remote Australia' is now available on our website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> - go to 'Publications and News' and then 'Position Papers' .

The next edition of PARTYline will be out in December - the deadline for contributions for that issue has closed but please feel free to make contributions to the Editor at any time: partyline@ruralhealth.org.au. The Alliance's 2007 calendar will be mailed out with the December PARTYline.

Registration is now open for the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury in March 2007. All information about registration, travel, accommodation, exhibitions and sponsorship can be found on <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Membership of friends of the Alliance expires on 31 December 2006. Invoices for 2007 will be sent out in January - we hope you will consider being a friend in 2007. By being a friend in 2007 you will receive the updated 'Rural and Remote Health Papers' CD which is being updated after the 9th Conference; be eligible for the discounted friends registration fee; and be eligible to enter the friends photographic competition to be judged at the 9th Conference in Albury in March 2007 . The first prize is \$500. Official entry forms can be requested by email friends@ruralhealth.org.au or phone (02) 6285 4660.

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STRONG PROGRAM FOR 9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The program for the 9th National Rural Health Conference will provide insights into many of the key issues affecting the health of people in rural and remote Australia. With over 300 abstracts having been offered for concurrent sessions, the Conference Committee has been able to select a range of research reports and descriptive papers on such thing as the impacts of rurality and poor food supply in remote areas, women's health, and education for rural and remote health workers.

Other concurrent sessions will deal with rural communities in action, rural aspects of planning for a pandemic, information and communications technology support for health professionals, recruiting health professionals, rural maternity services and perinatal care, the mental health of farm families, rural emergency care, and community pharmacy.

There will be a focus on programs supporting healthy communities in south-west Queensland – with stories from Charleville, Cunnamulla, Augathella and Quilpie.

Keynote speakers will include Robert Tickner, Secretary General and CEO of the Australian Red Cross, Rhonda Galbally, CEO of Our Community, Philip Davies, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing and Andrew Podger. Andrew Podger will describe the likely impacts on rural health and services from restructuring of the national health system.

There will be a special stream on cancer and palliative care in the bush, organised by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, with a Keynote Address and a number of concurrent session papers.

Special workshops will be offered on managing chronic kidney disease in regional and remote Australia; managing people with dementia; and moving from the failure discourse to better Indigenous health workforce solutions.

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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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AUSTRALIA'S MATERNAL DEATH RATE REMAINS STABLE

In Australia, 95 maternal deaths were reported in the three year period 2000 to 2002, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The maternal mortality ratio for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was 45.9 deaths per 100,000 women who gave birth - a rate 5.3 times that of non-Indigenous Australian women (who had a MMR of 8.7 deaths per 100,000 women who gave birth). The AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2006/mr20061018.cfm> The full report is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10207>

ALP spokesperson Chris Evans and Julia Gillard said that the report raises serious concerns about current trends in this area of Indigenous health. Their statement is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/1006/msfcsheaia180.php>

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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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RURAL SUICIDE PREVENTION PROJECTS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT

Government mental health and suicide-prevention programs will provide timely support for people in rural Australia, according to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Christopher Pyne.

"The Government is concerned that hardships increase for farm families when they have to face the extremes of flood and drought," Mr Pyne said today. "More than \$8 million in funding will be spent over the next three years on 17 projects that target suicide prevention in rural and remote communities," Mr Pyne said.

The full text of Mr Pyne's statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-cp-pyn066.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2006&mth=10>

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Multiple Sclerosis – Update on Diagnosis and Management

LIVE national satellite television broadcast
Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation
Wednesday 15th November 2006 8:00pm AEDT (repeated Friday 17th November 1:30pm AEDT)
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

This program alerts health practitioners to the possibility of MS among presenting patients, as well as provides an update on the latest research and clinical expertise in the areas of diagnosis, treatment and management. The program will also discuss the current debate over treatment modalities as well as discuss barriers, and potential solutions to diagnosis, treatment and management in the rural setting.

Panellists include:

- Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National
- Prof John Pollard AO, Bushell Professor of Neurology, University of Sydney; Co-Director of the Nerve Research Foundation & Director of the Brain Mind Institute.
- Ms Ros Chapman, Community Support Worker (RN), MS Society NSW/VIC.
- Ms Robyn Leece, MS Ambassador NSW/VIC & Registered Nurse, Quirindi NSW.
- Dr Geoff Chapman, General Practitioner; Chairman of MS Society of Tasmania & a Director of MS Australia.
- Dr Gary Fulcher, Senior Clinical Psychologist/Research Development Officer, MS NSW/VIC

Further details about the program visit <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/613/613.html>

RSVP

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term describing a spectrum of disorders including Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Foetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), Partial Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS), Alcohol Related Neurodevelopment Disorders (ARND), Static Encephalopathy (alcohol exposed) (SE) and Alcohol Related Birth Defects (ARBD). FASD is a lifetime disability with lifelong implications. It is not curable, though it is one hundred percent preventable. Prevention strategies must focus around education and early intervention, and not only involve health professionals but link clearly with education, housing, justice and other community services. This program discusses FASD within the context of prevention, diagnosis, early intervention and long term management and support for sufferers and families. Two location-based case studies illustrate the difficulties and responsibilities for a child with a diagnosis of FASD.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this program, participants will:

- * Identify incidence of FASD in Australia.
- * Understand criteria for diagnosis of disorders contained under the umbrella of FASD.
- * Identify primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies for FASD.
- * Understand how to develop community-based strategies that support young women and teenagers through education about FASD and that focus on managing alcohol programs.
- * Understand the issues for ongoing management and support for a child with FASD.

Panellists include:

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National

Assoc Prof Elizabeth Elliot, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Sydney; The Children's Hospital at Westmead; the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit NSW; Member FASD Working Group.

Ms Lorian Hayes, National Indigenous Australian Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Education Network, FAS Education Unit Queensland, Member FASD Working Group.

Ms Sue Miers, National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Syndrome & Related Disorders, Member FASD Working Group.

Dr Lara Wieland, Rural General Practitioner, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Medical Centre, Mareeba QLD.

Broadcast details on the Foundation's satellite network

This program will be broadcast LIVE on Wednesday 8th November 2006 on Channel 4 at:

- 8.00pm in ACT, NSW, TAS & VIC.
- 7.30pm in SA & NT
- 7.00pm in QLD
- 6.00pm in WA (and repeated in WA on Channel 23 at 8.00pm)

Also on Friday 10th November 2006 on Channel 23 at:

- 1.30pm in ACT, NSW, VIC & TAS.
- 1pm in SA & NT
- 12.30pm QLD
- 10.30am in WA

This program will be web streamed after the live broadcast and will also be available as a downloadable audio MP3 file.

For more details visit the <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/614/614.html> program page.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Suicide Prevention Australia invites you to attend our 2006 National Conference "Connecting Pathways: Big Country, Big Picture". The conference is being held this November 2 – 4, in Adelaide.

Stamford Grand Adelaide
2 Jetty Road, Glenelg, Adelaide SA 5045
Tel: +61-8 8376 1222
Fax: +61-8 8376 1111
sales@sga.stamford.com.au

KEY TOPICS

How will current research inform future practice in suicide prevention and intervention?

- * Methodological challenges in investigating suicide and suicide prevention
- * A national research agenda, and research priorities?
- * Support for suicide prevention research and researchers
- * Action Research: Learning from Practice
- * Communicating research findings – Who is Responsible?

Age, gender, social and economic disadvantage, culture and mental health have all been the focus for research and practice. What are the commonalities and what are the differences, which need to be understood to advance the efforts in suicide prevention and intervention?

- * Social environments
- * Population mental health
- * Modifying risk factors and/or social determinants
- * Universal, selected and indicated strategies
- * Challenges for communities and community organisations
- * 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

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Strengthening the Primary Health Care Approach

The National Primary and Community Health Network* invites you to attend a one-day forum that will highlight issues and major initiatives nationally in primary health care around chronic disease management.

Wednesday 8 November 2006
Brisbane
Program and registration form attached and at
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aipc/cdih/pchnetwork/>

Sponsored by Queensland Health, the Australian Institute for Primary Care and the Primary and Community Health Network, Victoria

A forum for those interested in the current and future role of primary health care in chronic disease management in Australia

*The National Primary and Community Health Network is a coalition of government representatives, peak bodies and others interested in sharing information on primary health care and the important role it plays in the Australian health system.

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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 to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

The ACOSS paper is available on the website at <http://www.acoss.org.au>