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INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS FIND HEALTH SYSTEM EASIER TO ACCESS

Indigenous Australians are finding the health care system easier to access, according to a report issued on 15 November by the Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott, and the Minister for Human Services, Joe Hockey.

The report also highlights the value in continuing improvements such as the provision of Indigenous health content in the formal education and training of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

The report can be seen at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-oatsih-pubs-mbsaccess.htm>

The Ministers' statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/content/health-mediarel-yr2006-ta-abb151.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2006&mt=11>

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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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From: Rural Health Education Foundation
Subject: Satellite television broadcasts in the RHEF Dementia Series

Tuesday 21st November 2006 8pm AEDT
Presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation
An Australian Government Initiative

This program is the first of five satellite television broadcasts in the Rural Health Education Foundation Dementia Series.

The program provides up-to-date information on the dementia screening process, including who and when to investigate, taking a history and the various tools available.

Information on making the diagnosis will be provided in detail, including ruling out other possible causes for cognitive decline, language use with patients and power of attorney issues.

Management strategies for ongoing care and moving forward will also be covered.

Further details about the series visit <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/616/616s.html>

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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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NEW ARTICLES IN 'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH'

'Obstacles and solutions to maintenance of advanced procedural skills for rural and remote medical practitioners in Australia'
Procedural skills are an important component of rural medical practice. This article summarises what we currently know about the obstacles to maintaining such skills and how to overcome these.
<http://rrh.deakin.edu.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=502>

'Essential tips for measuring levels of consumer satisfaction with rural health service quality'
Evaluation of consumer perspectives is a crucial component of quality improvement in rural health. But are you aware of how different

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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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5th International Rural Nursing Congress - Registration Open
4 - 6 March 2007
Albury, New South Wales

This pre-conference meeting will be run in conjunction with the National Rural Health Alliance and the 9th National Rural Health Conference. Registration and further information for this event can be found on the 5th International Rural Nursing Congress page (<http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/contacts/?IntContId=69&IntCatId=4>) on the 9th National Rural Health Conference website.

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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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From: Michael Blair
Subject: Australian College of Mental Health Nurses 33rd Annual International Conference

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses is to hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Cairns in 2007.

The theme for the conference, "Mental Health Nurses: Making Waves", not only illustrates the tropical location of the 2007 conference, it is also intended to reflect the idea that historically derived factors influencing development in Mental Health Nursing, reach out and influence others with related concerns.

Waves convey ideas of movement and change. History evolves as events change. Its influence on the future changes with developments that are based on the lessons learnt and experienced. As a wave rolls through, its predecessor is completely changed and yet waves are comprised of those that have come before. Our theme challenges presenters to address related topics. We know that mental health issues will remain important to communities and individuals in the years and decades to come. Mental health nursing is challenged to make waves and to be a key player in this expanding sphere.

The ACMHN Inc., through its national Conferences, local seminars, educational functions, scholarships and awards, has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with key sponsors. We hope that existing sponsors will take this opportunity to continue a mutually rewarding relationship, and that new groups will be inspired to join us.

The Web site URL for persons to express an interest in attending or sponsoring the conference is
<http://www.astmanagement.com.au/anzcmhc7/>

All those persons that express an interest in attending via the web site will go into the draw for a free registration to the conference.

The conference will be held at the International Hotel in Cairns from the 8th to the 12th of October 2007.

Submission of Abstracts are called for and they may be submitted electronically via the Web site. You are invited to submit abstracts addressing topics including, but not limited to:
* Collaborations between sectors and service providers; academics and clinicians; consumers, carers and mental health professionals
* Innovations in mental health education

