

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum - 1 October 1999

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From: Chris Hair <wavemonger@hotmail.com>  
Subject: UNSW rural health database

Just a comment on the rural health database that UNSW rural health unit have established.

This is the sort of initiative that the NRHN are currently endorsing, and aim to provide a similar site design for JFSS placement reports. As a student, such a database is incredibly useful in that it allows me to understand the demographics of a regional or rural centre, and more importantly, read a first hand student experience within the area.

I urge all dept's associated with undergraduate and postgraduate student placements and education to achieve such a site for the benefit of not only their own students, but those of us living interstate, yet interested in placements within your states.

Chris Hair  
A.U.R.M.S. NRHN rep.  
5th year medicine  
Adelaide University.

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From: Florence.Adofo-Kissi@health.gov.au  
Subject: Further Coordinated Care Trials - Call for Expressions of Interest

The 1999/2000 Federal budget allocated \$33.2 million over four years to further coordinated care trials. The trials will focus on people with chronic or complex care needs, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged older people.

Strategic directions for further trials were endorsed by Australian Health Ministers in August, 1999. Consistent with these directions, Expressions of Interest are now called for from individuals and organisations with an interest in conducting, supporting or contributing specialist advice or expertise to further coordinated care trials.

The aim of these trials is to further develop and test coordinated service delivery and funding arrangements which aim to:

- \* Improve client outcomes;
- \* Deliver services which are individually and collectively more responsive to
- \* the client's assessed needs; and
- \* Improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of services.

Trials are expected to run for up to three years commencing in mid 2000, and are expected to involve service providers working in public and private community and institutional health care settings, as well as a range of health related services, such as Home and Community Care, and residential aged care. Trials will be independently evaluated.

Interested organisations must lodge expressions of interest, addressing the issues and selection criteria discussed in the call for Expressions of Interest documentation. A copy of the document can be obtained by calling

Voice Mail: 02 6289 7014

or by sending an email request to;

E-mail: EPC Coordinated Care Trials@health.gov.au

or directly from the following website; <http://www.health.gov.au/hsdd/primcare>

Expressions of Interest must reach the address below by 2pm, local Canberra time, Friday 5th November 1999.

Tender Box: 134/99

(Mail Drop Point 53)

Department of Health and Aged Care

GPO Box 9848

CANBERRA ACT 2601

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National Workshop on Heart Disease: Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders; Rural and Remote Populations - Townsville, 17-19 October 1999

The workshop will bring together leaders of Australia's community, policy and service delivery systems to take some important 'next steps' towards improved heart health for Australia's Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, rural and remote communities. These next steps follow the launch by Health Ministers of the National Health Priority Area Report on Cardiovascular Health on 4 August. The Townsville workshop will progress the recommendations of the Remote and Indigenous section of this Report, a summary of which will be provided to all delegates before the event.

There will be opportunities for all participants to contribute, and that a major effort will be made to ensure that there are clear action steps identified for progressing the recommendations of the Remote and Indigenous sections of the Report.

The workshop partners are the National Heart Foundation, James Cook University, the National Rural Health Alliance, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The partners are making a concerted effort to ensure maximum representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, from both government and community controlled organisations.

The Queensland Minister for Health, Wendy Edmond, is expected to attend the closing session. Other people who will be speaking include Mr Puggy Hunter, Prof Andrew Tonkin and Prof Ian Ring. A range of experts on various matters relating to heart health will give brief 'trigger papers'.

The workshop will be facilitated by the ABC Health Report's Dr Norman Swan.

There will also be a brief international session, with talks from Dr Tukutau Taufa from the University of Papua New Guinea, and Mr Joe Puketapu from New Zealand.

Dr Bernard Liese, Medical Director at The World Bank, will address the Workshop Dinner on the Monday evening.

The workshop is scheduled to begin on Sunday 17 October at 7.00pm. This is an important session at which Prof Tonkin will present and we will aim to provide the background and outline for the next two days. The workshop will close on Tuesday 19 October at 3.30pm to enable people to catch flights out of Townsville that afternoon.

If you intend to go to the workshop and have not already registered, please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you in Townsville.

Ms Pat Field  
National Director  
Rural Remote and Indigenous Programs  
National Heart Foundation

Prof Ian Ring  
Head, School of Public Health  
& Tropical Medicine  
James Cook University

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## PHARMACISTS TO MAINTAIN IMPETUS FOR LOCAL BANKING SERVICES

The Pharmacy Guild will set up a new partnership with an existing bank to ensure that community pharmacies can offer in-store transaction services to customers, the Chairman of Guild Commercial, Mr Harry Zafer, has announced. The Guild announcement is at <http://www.guild.org.au/inforelease/bank.htm>.

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"E-HEALTH" REPORT CARD

"Australia's e-health is leading edge" according to a recent Federal Government statement releasing a report on entitled "From Telehealth to E-Health: The Unstoppable Rise of E-Health".

An action plan, setting a strategic framework for future health information activity in the health care sector, is expected to be released for public comment later in the year.

The report indicates that Australia is successfully positioning itself as part of the e-health revolution. Australian case studies demonstrate how clinicians and industry are working together to provide a wide variety of services.

Australia's particular challenges of distances and the under-supply of medical practitioners in rural areas are obvious incentives for expanding e-health.

According to the report, there is one area where Australia could improve, viz, that Australian general practitioners have been slow to integrate information technology and internet technologies into their practices.

The report is available at <http://www.noie.gov.au/ehealth> and the Ministers' press release is at [http://www.dcita.gov.au/nsapi-graphics/?MIval=dca\\_dispdoc&ID=4379&template=Newsroom](http://www.dcita.gov.au/nsapi-graphics/?MIval=dca_dispdoc&ID=4379&template=Newsroom).

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is a forum for the expression of YOUR views. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator, Jim Groves, at [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au).

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. 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](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au).

The e-forum is sent to a mailing list of the Alliance and those have indicated interest through the subscription box at the NRHA Web site (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>). This issue is going to 628 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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