

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 12 November 1999

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### NEW EXECUTIVE FOR NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

Dr Steve Clark, Director of the North Queensland Rural Health Training Unit (NQRHTU) and Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at James Cook University, is the new Chairperson of the National Rural Health Alliance. Dr Clark leads a new Executive with representatives from five States. The Statement announcing the new Executive is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/311099.htm>.

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From: Desley Hegney <hegney@exchange.usq.edu.au>  
Subject: AARN and Infront Outback go virtual.

The 'in parallel' conferences of Infront:Outback (the 5th Biennial Australian Rural and Remote Health Scientific Conference) and the AARN (the 8th National Conference of the Association for Australian Rural Nurses Inc, 2nd International Congress of Rural Nursing, 4th Annual Conference of the Association for Australian Rural Nurses (Qld Branch) which are being held in Toowoomba from the 24th to the 26th February 2000 will also be running one virtual conference for those who cannot attend in person.

The virtual conference will cost \$150 for registration and will allow registrants access to the abstracts, full papers and presentations during the conference. Photos of presentations will be taken and then loaded 'on-line' after the presentations. The speakers will be encouraged to take part in the discussion groups which will be formed according to the themes of the conference.

The virtual conference will run until the 10th March to allow for discussion to continue between the delegates and speakers.

Registration forms for both the virtual conference and the face-to-face conference are available from Joy Pugh at USQ - email - [pugh@exchange.usq.edu.au](mailto:pugh@exchange.usq.edu.au) or from Desley Hegney at USQ - email - [hegney@exchange.usq.edu.au](mailto:hegney@exchange.usq.edu.au). The conference web-site which will be up in a couple of weeks is <http://aarninfront.indelta.com.au>

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From: "dsbriggs" <dsbriggs@northnet.com.au>  
Subject: Aged Care Study

I am undertaking a consultancy/ research project on behalf of the Northwest/New England Region Area Consultative Committee which will examine the aged care workforce, looking at trends, training etc., as well as the future direction of aged care services. In addition to surveying aged care personnel and providers and training organisations we intend to also conduct a householder survey in selected local government areas.

This survey proposes to assess from the consumers perspective aged care service utilisation, retirement intentions/planning and who in the communities view should be providing services and at what level. It also seeks responses from providers of services to the aged. Both surveys will include questions about disability, both intellectual and physical.

I would be interested in feedback about other similar research that readers may have conducted or be aware of from other rural areas.

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## HEALTH INFORMATION ACTION PLAN

Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Dr Michael Wooldridge, has released details of Australia's first national health information action plan. 'Health Online: A Health Information Action Plan for Australia' is a co-ordinated national approach designed as a guide for the future application of information technology in the Australian health sector.

The plan aims to empower health consumers to make informed decisions about prevention, intervention and treatment options; online technology could also see more electronic journals, professional chat groups and health transactions made electronically.

Health Online has been developed under the direction of the National Health Information Management Advisory Council (NHIMAC), and with input from Commonwealth, State and Territory health departments and other key stakeholders. Input and comments on the document can be made to the NHIMAC Secretariat at [NHIMAC.Secretariat@health.gov.au](mailto:NHIMAC.Secretariat@health.gov.au).

Health Online is available on the Web at, <http://www.health.gov.au/healthonline/>

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From: Professor John Catford, Director, Public Health and Development, Human Services Victoria  
Subject: Recruitment of overseas trained doctors

The Victorian Government recently embarked upon a comprehensive initiative aimed at recruiting one hundred overseas trained doctors to address the chronic shortage of General Practitioners in rural areas.

In addition, an Internet site has been set up to promote the advantage of living and working in Victoria. The site is located at <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/vicgovdocs/vacancy.htm> and we encourage you to visit the site for further information.

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#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NURSING HOME PROVISION

The Federal Government has announced the provision of more than 2500 additional places for senior Australians in regional, rural and remote areas. In announcing the allocation, the Minister for Aged Care Bronwyn Bishop, said that "funds have been directed to the areas of greatest need and senior Australians living outside major capitals have been targeted with some 40 per cent of all additional places going to regional, rural and remote areas. More than 1600 community care packages and over 900 residential care places are for regional, rural and remote areas."

The Minister's announcement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr1999/bb/bb99087.htm>

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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 638 recipients. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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