

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 26 November 1999

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ALLIANCE SUBMISSION TO SENATE PUBLIC HOSPITAL INQUIRY

The Alliance recently made a submission to the Senate Public Hospital Inquiry. The full text of the Submission is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/hospsub.htm>.

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From: Gordon Gregory <NRHA@ruralhealth.org.au>
Subject: Canberra Launch of CD ROM: Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-99

If any of you are in Canberra on the morning of Wednesday 8 December please come to the launch of the NRHA's revised CD ROM. It will be undertaken by Senator Ian Macdonald, Minister for Regional Services, in Parliament House at 11.00am. If you can be there, please give your name to Toni or Leanne in the Alliance Office (we need to have a consolidated list so we can all have access to Parliament House).

If you are unable to be there you will want to know what's on the CD ROM. It has about 1,100 separate authored articles, over 8,800 pages in all - and it is searchable by keywords or phrases, authors, titles etc. So it will be a great research and information tool. It was produced for the Alliance by a Canberra-based firm, NetImpact Publishing, and the original CD won an international prize!

The revised CD to be launched on 8 December will include all papers from the 5th Conference in Adelaide and the full text of Healthy Horizons. It will be available to individuals through membership of friends of the Alliance - \$40.00 to individuals (and organisations can purchase a licence for multiple access to the CD).

Best wishes.
Gordon Gregory, ED

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From: Gordon Gregory <NRHA@ruralhealth.org.au>
Subject: John Flynn Scholarship Scheme

The NRHA is involved in final negotiations with the Department of Health and Aged Care re work as Administering Agency for the John Flynn Scholarship Scheme (JFSS). The Alliance is very keen about this work. All being well there will be a further report in the next edition of the e-forum.

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From: "Robert Williams" <rwilliamsrfd@bigpond.com>
Subject: Educational CD-ROM

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Section) has launched a new educational CD-ROM to teach rural and remote health practitioners psychological skills in relation to commonly presenting mental health problems. The main problems covered are depression, alcohol abuse, suicide, anxiety, general stress and psychological crises.

The CD-ROM was developed from a series of tutorials conducted with RFDS staff covering the most commonly encountered psychological issues. It employs the latest technology to create an innovative learning environment enabling the user to select information on a particular topic or skill or to work through a series of learning modules to gain professional development credits.

The CD-ROM offers the opportunity for self-directed study at home or in the work place and is especially suitable for practitioners who operate in remote areas – all they need to do is to put the CD-ROM in a computer and follow the on screen instructions.

The first aid kit will ultimately improve the mental health of those people who live in rural and remote locations, as their health service providers will be better able to detect, manage, refer and follow-up mental health problems.

The CD-ROM project was funded by a Commonwealth grant from the Rural Health Support, Education and Training Grants Program (RHSET).

Additionally the CD-ROM has been allocated CME points at two points per hour (Total 18 points). I should emphasize however that the CD-ROM is for all health practitioners (Doctors, Nurses and Allied health Staff) who work in rural and remote areas.

The cost is \$35.00 (plus \$3.00 post and package). Further information on the CD-ROM can be obtained from Robert Williams at the RFDS Cairns Base, contact details:

Ph: (07) 40531952

Fax: (07) 40321776

E-mail: rwilliamsrfd@bigpond.com

Robert Williams
RFDS (Queensland Section)

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From: Rural Health Education Foundation <rhef@hcn.net.au>
Subject: Hepatitis C - Satellite Broadcast for rural, regional and remote health professionals

Tuesday 30 November 1999

This broadcast is aimed at GPs, liver specialists, pharmacists, nurses and community health workers. The program will provide information on:

The incidence and prevalence of hepatitis C in the Australian community;

The modes of transmission for hepatitis C;

Diagnostic strategies. This includes assessment techniques, testing procedures and counselling;

The latest evidence in the treatment of hepatitis C, with a focus on interferon, combination therapy and complementary therapies;

The importance of pre-test information, post-test counselling and psycho-social community support; and

Resources and publications that are available to health professionals and consumers on the issue of hepatitis C.

Panel of Speakers:

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report & co-host of Life Matters on ABC Radio National.

Ms Jennifer Holmes, Registered Nurse and Vice President, Hepatitis C Council of NSW.

Dr Gregory Dore, Infectious Diseases Physician and Epidemiologist, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research.

Dr Jane Barker, General Practitioner, Bangalow NSW.

Professor Geoffrey Farrell, Storr Liver Unit, Department of Medicine, Westmead Hospital.

The next program will be: "Envenomation - Snake and Spider Bites", 7 December 1999. This is a repeat of the July 1997 program and will be the final program for 1999.

Rural Health Education Foundation

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QUEENSLAND DOCTOR'S FOR THE BUSH PROGRAM

Queensland is the latest State to announce measures to attract doctors, particularly overseas trained doctors, into rural areas. Called, "Doctor's for the Bush", the program. aims to overcome a range of obstacles that have discouraged both overseas trained doctors and young Australian doctors from working in remote areas. The project addresses professional registration, training and immigration issues.

Under the scheme places will be offered to Australian graduates and overseas trained recruits who agree to work in remote areas for five years.

In addition, the Queensland Government is implementing a number of measures to attract and retain nurses in rural and remote areas. These include a rural nursing scholarship scheme, the promotion of family friendly rostering schemes and a pilot program rotating nurses between city and rural areas."

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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.

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.

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

To subscribe, send a message saying "subscribe NRHA eforum" to grovesc@winshop.com.au. To unsubscribe, send a message saying "unsubscribe NRHA eforum" to grovesc@winshop.com.au. The archive of the e-forum is at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/newsletter.htm>