

## National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 15 June 2010

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## MAY 2010 E-NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

### Policy work

A meeting has been held with Minister Warren Snowdon about the structure and functions of Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals in rural, regional and remote areas - and the relationship on the ground between those two entities. A special implementation unit has been established in the Department of Health and Ageing to oversee the work in train with State and Territory authorities on this and other reform implementation matters. The importance of this work was highlighted recently with rumours that both the Northern Territory and Tasmania might have only one Local Hospital Network each. This would clearly not be consistent with the PM's commitment that the new system will be "funded nationally and run locally".

The Alliance will keep emphasising the importance of local management and control, and of the critical 'community service' functions undertaken by smaller hospitals. We continue to seek involvement with governments in their further decisions on these issues.

We shall also be negotiating for the Commonwealth to have funding and policy responsibility for primary care, for example in relation to Commonwealth responsibilities for the distribution of all primary health care professions and how aged care is to be integrated with it and with acute care.

It is to be hoped that oral and dental health does not become another of those issues - like patients assisted travel schemes - on which people in rural and remote areas are disappointed.

Work continues at the Alliance on policies on aged care in rural and remote communities and on costing the rural and remote health deficit. There is a link to many of the Federal Budget announcements relating to rural and remote health, and the associated media releases from a wide range of organisations, on the Alliance's website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/media/budget-2010-11/budget.asp>

## **11th National Rural Health Conference: Perth, 13-16 March 2010 - Call for Abstracts Now Open**

The call for abstracts for the 11th Conference is now open via the Alliance's website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> We are seeking abstracts for refereed and general papers, workshops, multi-media and arts and health activities. Get involved and submit an abstract for a spot in a concurrent session.

## **Partyline No 39**

The next edition of Partyline is due out in late June. It is the second edition to be sponsored by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute and will carry two feature articles on rural and remote health research. It will also report on the recent Health Impact Assessment of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. Other stories focus on oral and dental health, the 2010 Budget, regional development, the Indigenous health challenge and steps towards a sustainable rural health workforce - and you can read about a "blokes' anthem" for health. Watch out for it on the Alliance website and in your mailbox. Subscription is free [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

## **AJRH**

In response to the national health reform debate, the June edition of the Australian Journal of Rural Health examines the validity of using the number of hospital beds as a measure of the quality of a national health system. Jane Farmer, from the UHI Millennium Institute, Centre for Rural Health, UK, writes on the challenges of international comparative studies - methods, collaborating and funding. And there will be a range of original papers on rural and remote health research. Out soon:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home>

## **RAMUS 2010**

Under a new funding agreement signed recently with the Department of Health and Ageing, the NRHA will continue to administer the RAMUS Scheme until June 2013. The Alliance is delighted to be continuing its involvement with RAMUS. Under the new agreement, the RAMUS Scheme now supports 573 scholarship holders. Three rural doctors have received RAMUS Mentor Awards for 2009 for the outstanding and inspirational support they have provided to RAMUS scholars: Dr Natasha Pavlin of Natimuk, Victoria; Dr Rachel Hammond of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia; and Dr Ursula Russell of Shepparton, Victoria.

Information about the RAMUS Scheme is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntCatId=7>

## **Rural Health Continuing Education Program (RHCE)**

The RHCE program will provide grants for the development, provision of, or attendance at multidisciplinary training, continuing professional development or orientation programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, allied health professionals, general practitioners and nurses who live and work in rural and remote Australia. Its overall purpose is to help rural and remote practitioners to provide services, both as members of multi-disciplinary teams and as individuals, and to increase their rates of retention in rural and remote areas. The Alliance is consulting with stakeholders at present on the details of the scheme so that the money available under the program (about \$630,000 per year) is put to the best use. We expect to invite applications for grants early in 2010-2011. We would welcome opportunities to advertise the call for applications on other organisational websites, to ensure we reach the widest possible audience. Information will be available at

<http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/> as the program develops.

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**11TH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

Perth Convention Centre  
13-16 March 2011

The Call for Abstracts is now open for the 11th National Rural Health Conference. Go to <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

This is the entry point for presentations to the Conference - be it a refereed paper, a paper in the general stream, a poster, a multimedia or arts and health session. Make sure your views are heard by the leaders of the rural and remote health sector.

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**NRHA on TWITTER**

From <http://twitter.com/NRHAAlliance>

Needed: a virtual Institute of rural/remote health research, leadership and training.  
Rural and remote health research must maintain quality, trust, partnerships and translation to practice

11th Conference to have more positive spin on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Many of Aust's rural and remote health researchers at symposium in Brisbane this week: <http://bit.ly/a3kv17>

Who would you like as keynotes at the 11th conference? send to: [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)

New generation health professionals for new gen. services. 11th conference, Perth, March 2011. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

11th National Rural Health Conference theme - rural and remote Australia: the heart of a healthy nation. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Every effort being made to get students to come to Perth for the 11th conference <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Health reform and what it means for rural areas will be considered at 11th Conference

11th National Rural Health Conference call for abstracts now open: <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

The 11th National Rural Health Conference: Perth Convention Centre, 13-16 March 2011 <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

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**NRHA on YouTube**

(<http://www.youtube.com/user/RuralHealthAlliance>)

Nurse TV: The Country's Voice  
Public Seminar 2009

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Highlights of the new section on the Alliance's website where you can keep in touch and provide your comments on e-health developments in rural and remote areas at (<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntCatId=45>)

The Alliance's position paper on the rural and remote implications of a national e-health strategy - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/final%20e-health%20position%20paper.pdf>

\* Contribute information and views - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14852&IntCatId=45>

\* Follow the development of broadband and electronic communications in rural and remote communities - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14851&IntCatId=45>

\* Help improve our understanding of progress towards shared individual electronic health records - <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/e-health/?IntContId=14853&IntCatId=45>

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### **GWALWA-GAI NEWSLETTER MAY 2010**

The latest Gwalwa-Gai (issue no 22, May 2010), the electronic newsletter of the Lowitja Institute, is now available. It contains stories about the activities of the Lowitja Institute, CRCATSIH and the Aboriginal health research sector.

In this edition you can read about:

- \* The launch of the Lowitja Institute
- \* Welcome to Congress Lowitja 2010
- \* New national body for Indigenous rights
- \* Let's Start early to improve kids' education
- \* Indigenous eye health improving
- \* Lowitja website now live

[http://www.lowitja.org.au/files/docs/Gwalwagai\\_newsletter-May2010.pdf](http://www.lowitja.org.au/files/docs/Gwalwagai_newsletter-May2010.pdf)

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### **RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH PAPERS 1991 - 2009 DVD**

Where can you easily access 3,189 references to the words 'rural health'?

All 3,189 documents can be found on the updated 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' DVD available when you join friends of the Alliance (see <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>)

You will also find 2,510 references to 'remote health', 526 references to 'health reform', 1,359 references to 'aboriginal health', and 315 references to 'oral health'.

What will you search for when you get your copy? The DVD contains the proceedings of all ten National Rural Health Conferences, all Alliance policy documents, annual reports, media releases and newsletters.

Don't forget friends of the Alliance also receive a discounted registration for the 11th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Perth, 13-16 March 2011.

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**ACRRM COUNTRY WATCH NEWSLETTER**

Subscribe to weekly editions of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine's e-newsletter by completing the online request form at <http://www.acrrm.org.au/country-watch-newsletter>

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**JOIN FRIENDS**

We would like to encourage you to join or renew your membership of friends of the Alliance for another year. The cost of membership is unchanged: \$44 (including GST) for an individual, \$165 for an organisation of less than 50 people, and \$330 for a large organisation.

On joining you will receive a friends membership pack including a certificate, the Rural and Remote Health Papers CD, lapel pin, fact sheets and the latest annual report. A membership form can also be found on the friends page of the Alliance website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>

The NRHA values the input of friends and finds its advice and contributions invaluable to the work of the Alliance.

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**VIGILANCE AND WORKERS KEY TO NEW ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES AND SEXUALLY TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIONS STRATEGY: NACCHO**

On-the-ground health promotion and prevention workers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to counter blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections are the key to a new national health strategy launched Wednesday.

<http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/2010-6-10NewAboriginal%20BBV&STISstrategyMR.pdf>

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**PARTYLINE**

The next edition of Partyline (No 39) is due out in late June. It is the second edition to be sponsored by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute and will carry two feature articles on rural and remote health research. It will also report on the recent Health Impact Assessment of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. Other stories will focus on oral and dental health, the 2010 Budget, regional development, the Indigenous health challenge and steps towards a sustainable rural health workforce - and you can read about a

"blokes' anthem" for health! Watch out for it in your mailbox or on the Alliance website:  
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> Subscription is free: [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

To contribute to future editions (article, photo, letter to the editor, poem), send your article to:  
[partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au) Back copies are available on the Partyline page of the website at  
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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## **THE METROPOLITAN-RURAL DIVIDE FOR STROKE OUTCOMES: DO STROKE UNITS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Patients with stroke treated in rural hospitals have poorer health outcomes, especially if not managed in stroke units.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123497811/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

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## **AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF RURAL HEALTH**

The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals. Get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health! The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health.

Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to AJRH. The Australian Journal of Rural Health is published on behalf of the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic. 3121 Tel: +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax: +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail: [melbourne@johnwiley.com.au](mailto:melbourne@johnwiley.com.au)

### **April 2010 issue now available. Contents include:**

- Editorial - Health reform and the immediate needs of rural and remote communities
- Policy Review - A brief history of 'Health reform' in Australia, 2007-2009
- Viewpoint - Charting the future course of rural health and remote health in Australia: Why we need theory
- Original Articles
  - From rural beginnings to statewide roll-out: Evaluation of facilitator training for a group-based diabetes prevention program
  - Urban-rural differences in psychiatric rehabilitation outcomes
  - Evaluation of a mobile screening service for abdominal aortic aneurysm in Broken Hill, a remote regional centre in far western NSW
  - Availability of antidotes for the treatment of acute poisoning in Queensland public hospitals
- Short Reports
  - Rural Birth Index for Australia?
  - Medical students out of town but not out of touch: Use of personal digital assistants to improve access to clinical information and enhance learning at the point of care in rural and

remote Australia

Factors to consider when starting up a videoconference medical oncology outreach clinic

Further information at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

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## LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE

The Lifeline Information Service provides access to a variety of self-help tool kits with information about issues such as mental illness, depression, suicide prevention, and more. These resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health and are available online at <http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice>

A limited number of printed tool kits are available on request by emailing [infoservice@lifeline.org.au](mailto:infoservice@lifeline.org.au). For more information please visit <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14

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## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

### **More Condoman Resources & Boost for Health Campaign Fronted by Rugby League Star Steve Renouf**

Indigenous Health Minister, Warren Snowdon, announced the Rudd Government would provide \$356,000 to fund the second phase of a Queensland Indigenous health campaign, fronted by former Indigenous rugby league star Steve Renouf. The campaign was developed by the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC), the state's peak body for Aboriginal Medical Services. He and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council are to be congratulated for being pro-active in addressing Indigenous Health issues.' <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws054.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=6>

### **Government Receives Policy Report**

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, today received a policy report that addresses disparities in hospital care between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians with acute coronary syndrome. The Government will continue to work also with National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association to develop solutions to these issues. The Australian Government is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws053.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=6>

### **\$4.3 Million Boost to IT Services in NT, QLD, VIC and SA to Benefit Indigenous Health**

Funding of more than \$4 million has been announced for several Aboriginal health bodies to improve and upgrade their information technology capability. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws055.htm>

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## **AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ONLINE**

The Australian Organ Donor Register is Australia's only national organ and tissue donor register and serves as a lifeline to the people on the organ transplant waiting lists. Register online at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp> to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

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## **BUSH SUPPORT SERVICES (formerly Bush Crisis Line) - 1800 805 391**

The Bush Support Services Line is a 24 hour confidential telephone support service for workers, and their families, who work in health related services in remote and isolated situations. 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.bss.crana.org.au>

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## **RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC**

(See <http://www.abc.net.au/health/healthyliving/yourhealth/ruralregionalhealth/>)

### **Health funding stuck in the south east say rural doctors**

The president of the Queensland Rural Doctors Association Sheila Cronin says the State Budget doesn't deliver for all regions. She says there are some positive outcomes for health in rural and regional areas, but the bulk of the funds is allocated to the south east corner of the state.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/regions/content/201006/2922227.htm?>

### **Snowdon considers disparate Indigenous health care**

The federal Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, is considering a recent report addressing disparities in hospital care between Indigenous and other Australians after suffering a heart attack.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/09/2922407.htm>

### **Rural doctors say new health plan will worsen 'blame game'**

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia has told a Senate inquiry that more needs to be done for regional Australia under the Federal Government's health and hospital reforms.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201006/s2921552.htm>

### **Indigenous heart attack stats 'very disturbing'**

The public health care sector says there needs to be better treatment for Indigenous hospital patients who suffer heart attacks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/06/2919469.htm>

### **Push on for more regional MRI machines**

The Rural Doctors Association says more regional hospitals need MRI machines.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/07/2920061.htm>

### **Indigenous heart attack stats 'very disturbing'**

The public health care sector says there needs to be better treatment for Indigenous hospital

patients who suffer heart attacks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/06/2919469.htm>

**Recruiting bush doctors**

Dr. Jen Delima says 'she was a run of the mill' Sydney practitioner before she decided to go bush and practice in a remote indigenous community. This week, she'll be featured in a television documentary by the Rural Health Education Foundation encouraging doctors to work in the sticks.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2010/06/01/2915163.htm>

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**RDAA NEWS**

**RDAA scores major tax win for rural doctors**

2 June 2010

[http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/RDAA%20scores%20major%20tax%20win%20for%20rural%20doctors%20--%20June%202010.pdf](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20scores%20major%20tax%20win%20for%20rural%20doctors%20--%20June%202010.pdf)

**Submission to Standing Committee of Finance and PA - Inquiry into COAG reforms**

9 June 2010

[http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/Final%20-%20Standing%20Committee%20of%20Finance%20and%20PA%20-%20Inquiry%20to%20COAG%20reforms%20May%202010.pdf](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Final%20-%20Standing%20Committee%20of%20Finance%20and%20PA%20-%20Inquiry%20to%20COAG%20reforms%20May%202010.pdf)

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**GET REGIONAL**

Get Regional is the new information and referral service for people living and working throughout country Australia. Engaging and interacting rural, regional and remote communities, via dynamic interactive technologies, to ensure a more sustainable future for the bush. The most up-to-date and independent information service with a wide range of broadcast distribution services.

<http://getregional.com.au>

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**CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA**

(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

Current issue: 7 June 2010

From the Editor's Desk: Health reform cycles

Editorials

Reducing the burden of inherited disease: the Human Variome Project

The ABC breast cancer cluster: the bad news about a good outcome

The WHO Surgical Safety Checklist

Research

Expiry of patent protection on statins: effects on pharmaceutical expenditure in Australia

Dose adjustment for normal eating (DAFNE) - an audit of outcomes in Australia

Population-based observational study of claudication in older men: the Health in Men Study  
Health Care - Putting science to work for health care reform: how much research is available to support improvements to our hospitals?  
Public Health - Breast cancer risk among female employees of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in Australia  
Medicine and the Law - Normative lessons: codes of conduct, self-regulation and the law  
Personal Perspective - Alcoholism: disease or symptom? The challenges of managing advanced alcoholism and chronic illness  
Lessons from Practice - Don't hold your breath: anoxic convulsions from coupled hyperventilation-underwater breath-holding  
Letters  
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza, pregnancy and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation  
Hydroxychloroquine retinopathy: screening needed to prevent blindness  
Hydroxycut hepatotoxicity  
A lifetime pursuit of diabetes through chance  
Defining disorders of the mind  
CICADA: Cough in Children and Adults: Diagnosis and Assessment. Australian Cough Guidelines summary statement  
Supplement - Delivering timely interventions: the impact of the internet on mental health  
Snapshot - Two in one: more than we bargained for

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**Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2010): Listening, Learning and Leading**  
16 - 18 June 2010  
Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference aims to assist and contribute to further develop the capacity of those working to address the harms associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs in meaningful and practical ways. The Conference will also showcase and celebrate the quiet efforts and achievements of those striving to improve the health and well being of our communities. It is a time for listening, learning and leading the way on what can be accomplished on this important health and social issue within Australia. To view flyer and details go to <http://www.nidaconference.com.au/>

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**Australia's Health 2010 Conference**  
Don't miss your chance to hear from of the most influential opinion leaders on health issues in Australia including 2010 Australian of the year Professor Patrick McGorry all in the one place over an evening and a day for less than \$500 per person (less for NGO's and concession).  
Australia's health is a one-day conference to be held in the Canberra on Wednesday 23 June 2010. This conference brings together the nation's leading thinkers and the latest statistics in areas as diverse as health reform, chronic diseases, health services, population groups, health expenditure and workforce.  
Key speakers include:  
The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing  
Geoff Simmons, Co-author Health Cheque: the truth about New Zealand's health system

Hon Jim McGinty, Chair Health Workforce Australia  
Professor Donald MacLellan, Program Director of Surgery, NSW Department of Health  
Plus many more  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/index.cfm#ah10>

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**Primary Health Care Research and Health Reform: Improving Care Conference**  
Wednesday 30 June 2010 - Friday 2 July 2010  
Darwin, Northern Territory

Come to Darwin for the 2010 PHC Research Conference - Primary health care research and health reform: Improving care, and participate in one of the premier primary health care networking events.

This conference is a must for anyone with an interest in primary health care research, evaluation and development. It will provide essential opportunities for researchers, decision makers, practitioners and consumers to share ideas, debate critical PHC matters, form collaborations and network with speakers and other delegates.

The program is an exciting blend of plenary sessions, workshops, symposia, poster and paper sessions, and influential presenters from both Australia and overseas. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, it is supported by both the Australian Association of Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) and the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI, based at ANU).

Presented by PHCRIS  
Event website: <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010>

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**NAIDOC Week**  
4-11 July 2010  
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/index.aspx>

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**National University Rural Health Conference**

NURHC '10 will be held in Alice Springs from 15-17 July. With Ernie Dingo confirmed as our conference MC, over 400 nursing, allied health and medical members attending, inspiring speakers, student presentations, interactive workshops and several awards for members, there is no better place to be this July. More information at <http://www.nrhn.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=166567>

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**2010 Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) Conference**

Alice Springs, 27-29 July  
<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference>

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**Assistive Technology: The tip of the iceberg**  
Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association National Conference  
Tuesday 10 - Friday 13 August 2010, Hobart, TAS

On behalf of the conference organising committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to the 2010 ARATA National Conference, AT: The tip of the iceberg, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, from Tuesday 10- Friday 13 August 2010. With the conference being held in Hobart, Tasmania, the home of the ice breakers heading to the Antarctic, papers will similarly crack through the surface to look more deeply at what lies beneath, explore new frontiers and meet the challenges of the pitfalls and crevasses. There will be an emphasis on thinking beyond the prescription of equipment to look more deeply at the issues of funding, training and support for users and their support personnel, and helping consumers to have the endurance to persevere with their equipment, despite the obstacles. Like the Antarctic explorers, there will be a focus on research and discovery - showcasing new products and ensuring ease in the use of equipment by capitalising on universal design and mainstream products. 'ARATAS 2010' will be full of new territory to explore, with the promise of many adventures to come in the field of Assistive Technology.

Karen Frost & Christopher Bryg  
Convenors, ARATAS 2010  
For information about ARATA, and the 2010 conference, visit the website at <http://www.e-bility.com/arata/conf.php>

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**9th World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference**  
Hosted by the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
22-25 August 2010  
Darwin

The corporation welcomes all people who are interested in, or concerned with, Indigenous women and wellness to get involved in the conference and particularly encourages the participation of Indigenous women. More information from Jodie Farrow, Community Health Engagement/Health Promotions Officer, Danila Dilba Health Service, email [jodie.farrow@daniladilba.org.au](mailto:jodie.farrow@daniladilba.org.au) T: 08 89435100, F: 08 89435101, W: <http://www.daniladilba.org.au>

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The Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress 2010 'Sharing Our Stories: Building Strength through the Circle of Knowledge Translation', in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, 26-29 August, 2010, hosted by the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada: <http://www.pridoc.org/>.

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## Healing Our Spirit 2010

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and researchers are advised to start planning now for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide The Sixth Gathering, which is due to take place on the island of Honolulu in Hawaii from 3 to 10 September 2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW) is to celebrate the diverse and unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health is a proud supporter of and committed participant in the gathering, which will be hosted by native Hawaiian healthcare organisation Papa Ola Lōkahi (<http://www.papaolalokahi.org>).

For more information:

Maria Halkitis - Contract Manager, 08 8943 5020

Mick Gooda - CEO, 0409 688 403

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## AAQHC 2010 Registration Now Open!

The Organising Committee is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 8th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care to be held in Perth from 6 - 8 September 2010.

The Conference is the premier event on the Australasian Safety and Quality in Health Care calendar and will appeal to all clinicians and managers from acute hospitals, aged care and primary care who are interested in providing safe, quality care to patients and their families. Register now to secure your attendance and take advantage of the early bird rate!

For further information and to view the provisional program please visit the Conference website at <http://aaqhc2010.cmail2.com/t/y/l/oudjrk/udityupl/d>

Contact Details:

8th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Managed by arinex Pty Limited

GPO Box 128, (Level 10, 51 Druiitt Street)

Sydney NSW 2001, Australia

Phone: +61 2 9265 0700

Email: [aaqhc2010@arinex.com.au](mailto:aaqhc2010@arinex.com.au)

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## 14th Chronic Diseases Network (CDN) Conference - 'Health Literacy: Opening doors to health and wellbeing'

Darwin, 9-10 September

The 2010 CDN conference will focus on the role and impact of health literacy on the prevention and management of chronic conditions and its importance in achieving positive health outcomes. More information from CDN, T: (08) 8922 8280, E:

[chronicdiseasesnetwork@nt.gov.au](mailto:chronicdiseasesnetwork@nt.gov.au)

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From: Glenn Taylor <[ceo@vnhp.org.au](mailto:ceo@vnhp.org.au)>

Subject: **Victorian Nurses Health Program inaugural 'Nursing & Midwifery Wellness Conference 2010'**

The VNHP was established in August 2006 to provide advice, support and case management to nurses, midwives and students of nursing facing the challenges presented by their substance use. We expanded our scope in June 2007 due to a demand to support the needs of those with mental health concerns.

We work with individual nurses and midwives to provide confidential assessment, treatment and referral to a variety of services including counselling and financial support, case management, peer support groups and general support regarding industry issues.

We offer advice and guidance to managers and employers who suspect one of their employees is facing these challenges and needs advice regarding how best to support them.

The health impacts that alcohol and drug issues and mental health concerns have on our colleagues in the industry is of real concern to us. We work closely with nurses and midwives whose health is being adversely affected as a direct result of their substance use and or the stress and anxiety they are experiencing at the time.

The conference theme of Wellness was chosen to signify a state of being which we believe is something we should all allow ourselves time to reach, maintain and enjoy!

Nurses and midwives make up the majority of the health workforce. We are a valuable and vital resource in the healthcare system and we must do what we can to support and care for those who support and care for so many in our society.

The inaugural VNHP Nursing & Midwifery Wellness Conference is an opportunity for nurses, midwives and students to take time out of their busy schedule to participate in an event which has been designed to promote a healthy mind, body and soul.

This conference will feature an exciting and engaging program which will include identification of unhealthy workplace behaviours, exposure to strategies to best deal with these and an introduction to a range of innovative ideas and thinking. In addition it will be an opportunity to take some time out to simply recognise the importance of caring for you and you having some fun!

You'll hear from some of Australia's most engaging and informative speakers as well as having access to a range of activities and products which I'm sure you'll find engaging and beneficial.

With that said, September means Spring and there is no better place to be than Melbourne! So, why not take some time out of your busy schedule to join us on 10 September 2010. You could even make a long weekend of it, shopping and sightseeing in this beautiful city!

For more details on the conference and to register go to <http://www.vnhp.org.au>

Glenn Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Nurses Health Program

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**ACSA Twenty 10**

ACSA's annual National Conference. "Explore the possibilities" will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel on Hobart's waterfront from Sunday September 19 to Wednesday September 22. The Twenty 10 National Conference is the most important aged and community care event this year and we want you to be part of the action.

In addition to traditional presentations, this year's conference will also include a new concept - an Ideas Market Place. Projects, ideas and innovations suited to PowerPoint presentations displayed on designated screens, will run throughout the Conference. The Ideas Market Place will allow delegates to gather for informal discussions on the presentations displayed. More details, including how to make a submission for the Ideas Market Place, will be provided in the coming weeks.

For any queries contact Conference Design at (03) 6231 2999

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Integrating Services for a Healthy Start to Life  
21-22 September 2010  
Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin

Improving the wellbeing of Indigenous children is a national priority and the key to 'Closing The Gap' in a generation.

Play your part at this year's Early Childhood Development in Indigenous Communities Conference which will showcase existing successful initiatives, sharing best practice for integrated services which help 'Close The Gap' on child disadvantage. It will also assess progress made under the National Partnership for Early Childhood Development and identify key priority areas to improve service delivery and community wellbeing.

Download brochure at  
<http://www.thewebconsole.com/process/link.php?Id=831096&cId=1156791>  
Register by 16 July 2010 and SAVE up to \$600  
Call 1300 316 882 for more information  
Email [registration@criterionconferences.com](mailto:registration@criterionconferences.com)

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**Creating Futures 2010 - Harnessing creativity and social enterprise for mental health and wellbeing**

Cairns, Far North Queensland  
20~24 September, 2010

Creating Futures 2010, auspiced by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland, is the fourth conference in a series in which the populations of interest are indigenous peoples from Australia, New Zealand, North America and the Pacific Islands and people living and working in rural and remote areas.

As with the previous Creating Futures conferences, there will be a focus on the social determinants of health. Creating Futures 2010 will also highlight creativity and social entrepreneurial approaches, posing the question: How is it possible to harness the creativity and energy of the social enterprise sector to address the underpinning social determinants of mental health and wellbeing in the populations of interest?

A National Workshop about Me and My Community, a Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland project aimed at developing leadership capacity and mental health and wellbeing knowledge among young people and women working in the farming sector in rural and remote Australia, will be held on Friday, 24 September. This will follow a dedicated stream of presentations addressing the impact of environmental and other challenges impacting on rural and remote communities on 23 September.

For more information visit the website at <http://www.crrmhq.com.au>

#### Invitation to attend

Creating Futures convenor, Professor Ernest Hunter, and the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland cordially invite you to attend this exciting, inspiring event that will develop your professional practice and challenge your thinking about mental health and wellbeing in the 21st century. If you wish to be included in the mailing list to receive the advance program and registration brochure, please email your postal address with "Creating Futures" in the subject line to [info@conorg.com.au](mailto:info@conorg.com.au)

For further details regarding the meeting, please contact:

The Conference Organiser Pty Ltd  
146 Leicester Street  
Carlton, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3053  
Phone: Australia: (03) 9349 2220  
Email: [info@conorg.com.au](mailto:info@conorg.com.au)  
Fax: Australia: (03) 9349 2230  
<http://www.conorg.com.au>

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### **The 2nd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium 'Winds of Change: New Perspectives on Rural and Remote Mental Health'**

Sydney, 29-30 September.

The conference will explore new perspectives within the P4 parameters, policy initiatives, primary interventions, promoting recovery, preventing relapse. Call for abstracts is now open. Please see conference website: <http://www.ausot.com.au/newsArticle.asp?id=208>

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### **Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINM), 12th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting**

Sydney, 29 September-1 October 2010.

The conference theme, Moving On, encompasses several streams including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Abstracts are invited by 16 July for more information contact CATSINM at E: <[catsin@bigpond.net.au](mailto:catsin@bigpond.net.au)>.

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From: Sally Stevenson <[Sally.Stevenson@wdhs.net](mailto:Sally.Stevenson@wdhs.net)>  
Subject: **Be part of the National Centre for Farmer Health Inaugural Conference 'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health'**

When: 11-13 October 2010  
Where: Hamilton, Victoria

Contact:  
Sally Stevenson  
P: (03) 5551 8587  
E: [sally.stevenson@wdhs.net](mailto:sally.stevenson@wdhs.net)

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**Rural Medicine Australia 2010  
Scientific forum and conference**

Rural Medicine Australia 2010, the national conference of ACRRM and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, will this year include a scientific forum. The theme for this important gathering of doctors and others passionate about rural and remote medicine is 'Bringing it all together'. The venue is Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart. RMA 2010 will run from 22 to 24 October. Almost 300 people attended Rural Medicine Australia 2009 in Melbourne. We will shortly be calling for abstracts and launching the RMA 2010 website with registration and accommodation information.

<http://www.acrrm.org.au/news/rural-medicine-australia-2010-0>

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**Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)**

2010 Conference, in Canberra, on 28 November-1 December. Under the theme, Building on the Capital, the conference will feature international and national speakers with a focus on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of drug and alcohol research. Symposia and abstracts that address all aspects of licit and illicit drug use/misuse are invited. For more information, <http://www.apsadconference.com.au/> or [apsad@wsm.com.au](mailto:apsad@wsm.com.au)

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The 11th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Perth on 13-16 March 2011.

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is published fortnightly. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au) (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au)). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

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 views 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)

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

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## **NRHA Media Release**

**7 June 2010**

### **Rural and remote health research in a reform environment**

Many of the leaders of Australia's rural and remote health research sector will meet in Brisbane this week at a critical time for the architecture, functions and funding of Australia's health system.

The 2nd Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium will examine the current rural/remote health research agenda and how best to convert evidence into effective policies and programs.

David Perkins, Convenor of the organising group for the Symposium, described this as a key challenge for rural and remote health researchers and their agencies.

"One of the ways of ensuring that research recommendations are adopted is through having closer relationships between policymakers and researchers," Associate-Professor Perkins said. "This Symposium will make a modest contribution to that relationship by having leading health researchers meeting side-by-side with those who make policy for rural and remote health."

The symposium's opening address on Wednesday will be delivered by Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Service Delivery.

Some 70 leading researchers, including invited guests from overseas and a number of emerging Australian researchers, will review the substance, science and methodology that underpin the best rural and remote health research. Among those from overseas is Professor Jane Farmer, Chair of the Millennium Institute at the Centre for Rural Health in Scotland. Her paper will ask whether a global rural and remote health research agenda is desirable or whether national and regional contexts determine all meaningful research outcomes.

There will be a strong focus on contemporary issues to see whether the research agenda is contributing as it should to health reform. For example, consideration of how Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals will operate and inter-relate can provide ideas for elements of

rural and remote health research that may now be of greater importance than was previously the case.

This year's event is jointly organised by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI), the Primary Health Care and Research and Information Service (PHCRIS), the Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN) and the NRHA.

The Symposium program, including key themes, can be found at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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