

National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 15 July 2010

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E-NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

Policy work

We've kept up the pressure on the Government to have rural and remote interests engaged in and informed about health reform developments. Our current emphasis is on the size/number, functions and governance of Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals - and on this score Minister Roxon's recent speech to the Sydney Institute included some good news. The Alliance attended another meeting with Minister Snowdon and senior officers of his Department, at which we emphasised the interests and concerns of rural and remote people. One of the litmus tests for health reform will be the extent to which it improves equity - for Indigenous people and those on low income, as well as for rural and remote people generally. Policy pieces from the Alliance have been published in Health Issues, Autumn 2010 and on the Croakey website, and presentations have been made to the New South Wales Shires Association and Andrology Australia's Forum 2010. We attended the recent AIHW conference in Canberra where Minister Roxon launched Australia's Health. It confirms that Indigenous Australians, people with disability, and people living in rural and remote areas still have poor health outcomes when compared to the general community. Work continues on aged care, costing the rural and remote health deficit, and a number of rural/remote health workforce issues.

2nd Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium

The main recommendation from the Symposium was that the NHMRC should support a

Partnership Centre for Rural and Remote Health under the Partnerships for Better Health program.

The Communiqué and Media Release are available on the Alliance's website.

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scientific/> The Symposium paper by Jane Farmer, 'Is a global rural and remote health research agenda desirable or is context supreme?' is published in the June 2010 issue of AJRH.

The Symposium was organised by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, the Australian Rural Health Education Network and the National Rural Health Alliance. Funding support was received from the Department of Health and Ageing and Queensland Health.

Call for Abstracts for 11th National Rural Health Conference: Perth, 13-16 March 2011

We are seeking abstracts for refereed and general papers, workshops, multi-media and arts and health activities. You have until August 23 to submit an abstract in order to get on the conference program. See the details and submit an abstract at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> Other planning is now hotting up for the Conference - especially now that 'dedicated' (you know what we mean) staff have been appointed to the task. Gordon Stacey is Convenor of the Conference Advisory Committee.

We are seeking sponsors - and now is the time to book your spot in the exhibition (otherwise you may not get your preferred pozzie).

Very Early Bird registration is open until 1 August - and it will guarantee you attendance at a never-to-be-repeated price!

AJRH

The June 2010 issue of AJRH is now available online at

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home>. Read about retention incentives for health workers in rural and remote areas and a review of rural and regional alcohol research in Australia. There are also articles on depression among rural adolescents and psychological wellbeing of women living in a remote Australian mining community. The AJRH has received its first Impact Factor, listing it as 0.786. It has been included in four categories in the Thomson Reuters ISI: Nursing (Social Science), Nursing (Science), Public and Environmental & Occupational Health (Social Science) and Public and Environmental & Occupational Health (Science).

NRHA is seeking an Editor for AJRH to take over from James Dunbar who completes his term at the end of 2010. Recruitment documents are available at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/ajrh/>

Partyline No 39

Partyline 39 is a bumper 48-page issue featuring articles on health reform, oral health services in rural and remote areas, and a health impact assessment of the Northern Territory Emergency Response. There are also articles on the National Rural Health Students' network, prostate cancer, chiropractic services and the distinction between 'primary care' and 'primary health care'.

This issue was produced in conjunction with the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) which contributes articles on workforce retention in rural and remote health services, and the translation of health research into policy and practice.

Reflecting the importance of the social and economic determinants of health, there are articles on community development in regional areas and the new strategic framework being developed for rural and remote health. Janet Fletcher, a friend of the Alliance from Janbar Springs in the Northern Territory, has set an example for other contributors by providing both

the cover photograph and the poem published on the back page. Go Janet!
Subscription is free: partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

New Fact Sheet

See the new Fact Sheet, Carers in the Bush at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/factsheets/fact-sheet-22-carers.pdf> prepared in collaboration with Carers Australia. The Fact Sheet draws on the findings of a recent report, The Tyranny of Distance? Carers in Regional and Remote Australia, prepared for Carers Australia by the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

RAMUS

The 2010 RAMUS application round is reaching its final stages. 163 new scholars have commenced their scholarship payments and scholarship offers to 11 applicants are still in process.

Information about the RAMUS Scheme is at: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/>

Rural Health Continuing Education Program (RHCE) Stream 2

Applications are expected to open in the first week of July. If you would like to be notified of this, or any other RHCE developments, email rhce@ruralhealth.org.au and we will be happy to add you to the mailing list.

Further information about the RHCE program is available at <http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au>

Follow us on twitter

Follow the NRHA on Twitter from the front page of our website.

Please keep in touch with us on all things rural and remote.

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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INDIGENOUS CARERS BEAR HEAVY BURDEN IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA

Australia's unpaid family carers are under strain - and in Very Remote areas almost one half of them are people of Indigenous extraction.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr-29-06-10.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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RURAL PEOPLE WANT 'MEDICARE LOCALS' - NOT STATE-WIDE PRIMARY CARE AGENCIES

The NRHA rejects proposals contained in the independent report commissioned by the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) on boundaries for Medicare Locals and will work strenuously against the Report's preferred options being adopted by government.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr-04-07-10.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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TWO NT LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORKS WOULD SET THE DESIRED NATIONAL PATTERN

Recent news provides encouragement that the Local Hospital Networks to be established across the nation will indeed be local and based on communities of interest rather than population numbers.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr-06-07-10.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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THE RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION BROADCAST

Psychotropic Drugs: What's Safe and What's Not

Tuesday 13th July 8.00pm (AEST) and Friday 16th July 12.30pm - repeat broadcast

This program looks at the safe use of commonly prescribed anti-depressants, mood stabilisers, anxiolytics, hypnotics and antipsychotic drugs. It examines issues related to their toxicity, interactions, overdose and adverse effects. It deals with questions of compliance and consent, failure to respond to treatment, monitoring, management and contra-indication. The program discusses the identification and reporting of adverse drug reactions as well as their management and prevention.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

More information about this program at http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=29

Please RSVP to the Foundation or your local Satellite Site Coordinator if you wish to attend. Any queries about satellite site locations or obtaining a copy of any of the programs on DVD please contact the Foundation <http://www.rhef.com.au>

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EATING DISORDERS: MEETING THE CHALLENGE CONFERENCE CD

The Eating Disorders: Meeting the Challenge conference was held on the 27th/28th of May in Sydney and included both international and domestic specialists in the field of treating the eating disorders.

The CD includes a GP workshop that was held during the weekend. Other topics that will be of interest include

- * Practical ideas for working with families and schools to prevent eating disorders and obesity in youth
- * An integrated approach to preventing obesity and eating disorders in youth: Why and how?
- * Power to the Parents - A Introduction to Maudsley Family Based Treatment (FBT)

- * Choices and Dilemmas: What place is there for law in managing Anorexia Nervosa?
- * The challenges of Family Based Treatment both for clinicians and families - why does this treatment work for some but not for others?
- * Mindfulness in Practice for Eating Disorders as well as numerous others.

More information is available from <http://www.cedd.org.au/conference> where you'll also find a free link to one of the presentations from the conference.

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11TH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE E-NEWS

Countdown: 8 months to go!

Perth, 13-16 March 2011

Two items to action: submit an abstract and register at the Very Early Bird rate!

Everything you need to know about the 11th Conference is on the Conference Website at <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au>. Further information will be added as it becomes available, so make sure you check the site regularly for the latest news and updated program. You can also follow the Conference on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/nrhalliance>

Register at the Very Early Bird rate and save

For those wanting to get in early and save, Very Early Bird registration is available at \$759 (GST inc) from now until 31 July 2010. Get in quick to ensure you receive this discount. Early Bird fee of \$880 will apply from 1 August 2010 to 18 December 2010 and the Full Fee from 19 December 2010 to 11 March 2011. For a full list of registration fees or to register online visit the Conference website at <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au>

Submit your abstract

The Call for Abstracts is now open and will close on 23 August 2010. We seek abstracts for refereed and general papers, workshops, multi-media and arts and health activities. The themes include:

- * social and economic determinants
- * health reform in rural and remote regions
- * a new generation of health professionals
- * community and consumer engagement
- * the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- * economics and equity
- * capturing the benefits of new technologies
- * creative aged care in the community
- * multidisciplinary health care teams
- * adapting research results
- * chronic conditions in the bush.

For a full list of themes, abstract guidelines and details about the submission process visit the Conference website at <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au>

We encourage you not just to attend but to get involved. Write an abstract for a spot in a concurrent session: tell others in the sector what's working well in your area; come clean with your concerns about the reformed system or workforce retention; stake your claim as a rural/remote health leader of the future.

For organisations exhibition space and sponsorship opportunities are also now available.

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From: Sally Stevenson <Sally.Stevenson@wdhs.net>
Subject: **National Centre for Farmer Health Inaugural Conference**
'Opening the Gates on Farmer Health'

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

<http://www.farmerhealth.org.au>

The conference aims to develop relationships across agriculture, health sciences, medicine, public health, occupational health, veterinary science and health promotion to provide a better - and broader - understanding of agricultural health issues.

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

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NRHA on TWITTER

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

NRHA producing 10-point Election Charter and seeking views of the Parties - watch this space

11th conference will again have an E-satchel for virtual flyers: promote your company greenly <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Health policy can't be lined up, agreed and signed off in a week's devotion - it's complex, takes time and ongoing commitment

NRHA constituents appalled by consultants' proposal for State-wide Medicare Locals and LHNs. See releases here: <http://bit.ly/9kO1I9>

Application round for Ab. Health Workers, allied health, nurses, midwives, GPs for CPD in their rural/remote workplace: <http://bit.ly/bHy3nE>

NRHA speaks to Rural Live TV (South Australia) about rural health <http://bit.ly/9jNJoY>

If you would like to give a paper to the 11th Nat. Rural Health Conference, submit an abstract here: <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Organisers to promote positives of rural and remote health at 11th conference in Perth. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Policy change = poor Govt communications + interest group backlash + resignations + threats + ad campaign + compromise = reconciliation?

11th conference will include student recovery breakfast. Don't miss it!

<http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Very Early Bird rego for the 11th Nat. Rural Health Conference open until 1 Aug. \$759 for full 3 days. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

11th conference will have a major trade exhibition: <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

Yes, population policy is complex. It involves Intl. responsibility, sovereign sustainability

and regional difference within the nation
11th conference in Perth will mix up the disciplines and enable cross-fertilisation between professions. <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>
With Election looming, what chance 'technical' (cf political) decisions on health reform for WA; fair/effective changes to resource taxes?
With both pop. policies and infrastructure investment tailored for particular regions, we'd have a de facto regional policy: good!

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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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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>

Contents of 8 July edition:

- Positions for Fellows on state-based IMG assessment panels
- Career opportunity: ACRRM Principal Examiner (2 part time roles)
- \$150k to \$500k grants to expand your practice: closing 20 August
- \$2.5 million in continuing education grants: closing 20 August
- Last places in August Mental Health courses (with Medicare access)
- Help shape registrar training (and the future of R&R medicine)
- College Censor features in ABC 7.30 Report
- Keynote speakers confirmed for RMA 2010
- New idea exchange: Acute Coronary Syndromes website
- Dates for your Diary

Contents of 1 July edition:

- Breathing New Life Into Maternity Care 2010 conference
- AMC accreditation achieved for PESCI assessment process
- ACRRM actively engaged in health reform agenda and issues
- ACRRM at Minister Snowden's rural and remote roundtable
- Support for streamlined framework for training practice accreditation
- New Primary Care Infrastructure Grants
- Grassroots approach to supporting future rural workforce
- National Registration and Accreditation starts today
- Important ACRRM dates
- Dates for your Diary

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JOIN FRIENDS

We would like to encourage you to join friends of the Alliance. 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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THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE e-BULLETIN - 05 JULY 2010

Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research
(Subscribe at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile>)

CONTENTS

- * Happy NAIDOC Week
- * Final Annual Report for the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH)
- * Congratulations to Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit
- * New Associate Director Research and Innovation at the Lowitja Institute
- * Call for Papers
- * Conferences
- * Jobs
- * Media
- * Publications
- * Resources and Websites
- * Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders
- * Seminars, Courses and Symposia
- * and Reminders

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PARTYLINE

The June edition of Partyline (No 39) is now out. It is the second edition to be sponsored by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute and carries two feature articles on rural and remote health research. It also reports 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! Available on the Alliance website <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> Subscription is free: partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

To contribute to future editions (article, photo, letter to the editor, poem), send your article to 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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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

June 2010 issue now available. Contents include:
Australian health reforms: Opportunity or threat?
Policy Review - Hospital beds and the quality of a national health system
Is a global rural and remote health research agenda desirable or is context supreme?
Systematic review of effective retention incentives for health workers in rural and remote areas: Towards evidence-based policy
Review of rural and regional alcohol research in Australia
Healthy minds for country youth: Help-seeking for depression among rural adolescents
Women living in a remote Australian mining community: Exploring their psychological well-being
From the Journal Associates
Rural and remote health sector takes heart and heads to Perth

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. 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

Release of Roadmap to Reform

The timeline for the further delivery of better health and hospital services was released by the Minister for Health and Ageing. The Government's implementation plan spells out the details as to when initiatives such as extra sub-acute beds, more doctors and more nurses will be part of our health system. It is clear that delivering better health and better hospitals is no simple task.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr140.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&month=7>

Federal Rural Health Minister Holds Health Forum in Esk

Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon has held a held forum in Esk and toured a number of the region's health facilities to talk about health reform and health issues of importance to the region. Mr Snowdon said the Australian Government is committed to an ambitious reform agenda which will deliver better health services and better hospitals to regional and rural Australia, particularly the Somerset region. 'No rural and regional hospital will be forced to close because of reforms being implemented as part of the Australian Government's National Health and Hospitals Network,' Mr Snowdon added.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws063.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=7>

Indigenous Health Minister Holds Indigenous Health Forum in Ipswich to Mark NAIDOC Week

Indigenous Health Minister Warren Snowdon and Member for Blair Shayne Neumann have visited an Aboriginal Medical Service in Ipswich during NAIDOC week to hold an Indigenous Health forum. On average, Indigenous males and females have a life expectancy 11.5 years and 9.7 years less, respectively than their non Indigenous counterparts. That's why the Australian Government has invested \$805.5 million in a historic chronic disease package, for Closing the Gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians,' he said.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws064.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=7>

New Incentives will Bring Doctors to Rural and Regional Areas

Rural and regional families are set to benefit from more doctors in their communities as the Australian Government increases the rewards and incentives for doctors to move to these areas. The Australian Government's Rural Health Workforce Strategy , will invest \$134.4 million in incentives, including giving rural doctors access to retention payments of up to \$47,000 a year - an increase from \$25,000. Rural health programs will benefit significantly from the Government's reform plans.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws058.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=7>

New Truck to Help Boost Dental Care in Central Australia

Adults and children in remote Aboriginal communities will benefit from funding from a new mobile dental truck, announced today in Alice Springs by the Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon and NT minister for Health, Kon Vatskalis. 'We're committed to addressing this issue this is the first pilot we're delivering as part of an \$11 million initiative called Closing the Gap - Indigenous dental services in rural and regional areas program This will implement and evaluate pilot projects for mobile dental services for rural and regional Indigenous communities and now we're seeing Central Australia benefit from that investment,' Mr Snowdon said. The Australian Government has also funded the NT Government to provide dental follow-up services to children, and 7,865 of these dental services were provided to 4,949 children between July 2007 and May 2010.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws059.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=7>

Stroke patients to benefit from the National Broadband Network

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Senator Stephen Conroy, and the Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon, said stroke patients would be among the first to benefit from the National Broadband Network (NBN).

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2010/064

New Technology to Boost Mental Health Services in Regional Victoria

The Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, said today the Australian Government was tackling significant mental health workforce shortages in regional Victoria through an innovative new project to train medical students online.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws065.htm>

New Peak Body to Support More Indigenous Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Occupational Therapists and Optometrists

The health of Indigenous Australians has taken another step forward with the launch of a new peak national body to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws067.htm>

Federal Rural Health Minister Holds Health Roundtable in Colac

Minister for Rural and Regional Health Warren Snowdon has held a health roundtable in Colac and toured a number of the region's health facilities to talk about health reform and health issues of importance to the area.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws066.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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INDIGENOUS SMOKING PROJECT REPORT

The history of tobacco control in Australia shows that reductions in smoking prevalence can be linked to comprehensive and collaborative action by governments and health organisations to change the culture of smoking. However, despite significant reductions in smoking among the general Australian population, Indigenous smoking rates remain alarmingly high at between 50% and 80% prevalence. Tobacco continues to be the main cause of preventable death and illness among Indigenous Australians. This report on the outcomes of the Indigenous tobacco advocacy workshops and consultations, also provided recommendations on future funding directions for Indigenous tobacco control in Western Australia.

<http://www.phaiwa.org.au/index.php/component/attachments/download/23>

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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 benefits of bush tucker realised

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s1867109.htm>

'Weekend warriors' fly in to prop up hospitals

The doctor shortage is now so acute that locums from New Zealand are being flown from across the Tasman to work in country hospital emergency rooms - at times, just for a weekend's work.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/07/07/2947458.htm>

Highlighting depression in indigenous communities

As part of NAIDOC week, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of South Australia will finding out more about depression.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/sa/content/2010/07/s2946220.htm>

Doctor incentives for rural and regional areas

The Federal Government have announced relocation payments of up to \$120 thousand to encourage city doctors to move to regional or remote areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2010/s2943255.htm>

Rural groups cautious about Coalition mental health plan

Rural lobby groups are not entirely convinced that the Coalition's mental health plan will be effective in the bush.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201007/s2942090.htm>

Abbott Mental health plan has flaws: lobby group

Rural mental health workers says they are over-stretched and that the Federal Government isn't committing enough money.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/nsw/content/2010/07/s2942236.htm>

Isolated doctors and nurses get skills updated online

You would hope that your doctor or nurse has the most up-to-date skills, wouldn't you? But for those working in remote areas, it isn't always easy to take time off to attend the various courses and training days to update their skills. Now a new training program, the eRemote online training program, will allow doctors and nurses living in isolated areas to update their skills as they see fit.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/nt/content/201007/s2942446.htm>

Senate report on suicide

A Senate report on suicide says a shake-up of services and more community involvement is vital in order to fix the problem in rural Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/nsw/content/2010/06/s2939030.htm>

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RDAAS NEWS

Allow doctors to participate on new hospital boards, Victorian Government urged

27 June 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Victorian%20hospital%20boards%2027-6-10.pdf

Doctors paid incentives to move to country towns like.Hobart?

1 July 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Media%20Release%20--%20Rural%20Incentives%20%201%20July%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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HEALTHY STORES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: THE IMPACT OF OUTBACK STORES ON REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

This paper from the Centre for Independent Studies argues that the federal government's initiative to improve remote community stores is crowding out the competition and not delivering on its promises. This is because the government's healthy eating campaigns have tended to assume that the poor diets of Indigenous Australians and their subsequent poor health outcomes are because of their lack of knowledge about what foods are healthy. But lack of education is not the problem. Many residents already know what foods are good for them; rather, it is the problems with supply and affordability of produce that limit the opportunities to consume fresh fruit and vegetables on a regular basis.

http://www.cis.org.au/issue_analysis/IA/IA122.pdf

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Current issue: 5 July 2010

From the Editor's Desk: Advice to doctors

Editorials

Patient safety: time for a transformational change in medical education

Has PSA testing truly been a "public health disaster"?

MMR, Wakefield and The Lancet: what can we learn?

Towards more uniform conflict disclosures: the updated ICMJE conflict of interest reporting form

Research

Australian attitudes to early and late abortion

Views and practices of induced abortion among Australian Fellows and specialist trainees of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

The impact of obesity on weight change and outcomes at 12 months in patients undergoing total hip arthroplasty

The US Medicare policy of not reimbursing hospital-acquired conditions: what impact would such a policy have in Victorian hospitals?
Medicine and the Law
Early medical abortion: legal and medical developments in Australia
Health Care - Issues facing the Australian Health Technology Assessment Review of medical technology funding
Medical Education - Meeting the challenges of training more medical students: lessons from Flinders University's distributed medical education program
For Debate - Fifteen years of bowel cancer screening policy in Australia: putting evidence into practice?
Viewpoint - Influenza surveillance in Australia: we need to do more than count
Clinical Update - Gastrointestinal neuroendocrine (carcinoid) tumours: current diagnosis and management
Lessons from Practice - Salmonella Rubislaw gastroenteritis linked to a pet lizard
Letters
A risk for returned travellers: the "post-antibiotic era"
National registration of health professionals: could it presage national regulation of Schedule 8 medicines?
A rare granulomatous reaction to Q fever vaccination following influenza vaccination
It's time to depolarise the unhelpful PSA-testing debate and put into practice lessons from the two major international screening trials
Myths of ideal hospital occupancy
Antibiotic prophylaxis for cardiac surgery - are we getting it right?
Primary care services and emergency medicine
Rationing versus increased taxes
Measurement of jugular venous pressure
Obituary - Gregory Robert Mundy
Snapshot - Christmas lights in the gastrointestinal tract
Film Review - Riwayat

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

(From <http://www.gigaalert.com>)

Nebraska DHHS: Office of Rural Health

This page contains information about the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Rural Health.

<http://www.hhss.ne.gov/orh>

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'Flinders University School of Medicine - 2010 John Chalmers Oration'

Speaker: Dr Tom Calma - the Inaugural National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking

Topic: 'What's needed to Close the Gap'

Date: Thursday 15 July, 2010

Time: 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Venue: New Health Sciences Lecture Theatre Complex (next to Flinders Fitness Centre), Flinders University, Bedford Park campus

All are welcome to attend.

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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.nrhsn.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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National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day 4 August 2010
http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news/view_article.cfm?loadref=8&id=269

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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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Emerging Health Policy Research Conference 2010

Sydney, 11 August

This conference, convened by the Menzies Centre for Health Policy at the University of Sydney, will showcase the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers, as well as those new to the field of health policy research in several areas, including Indigenous health. For more information

http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/events_upcoming.php#ehpr2010

email mchp@sydney.edu.au

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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 T: 08 89435100, F: 08 89435101, W:

<http://www.daniladilba.org.au>

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Rheumatic Heart Disease National Workshop: 23 and 24 August, Darwin

The inaugural 2010 Rheumatic Heart Disease National Advisory Workshop aims to provide an opportunity to share knowledge and recommend future strategies to help reduce RHD in Australia. To read the draft program and register, please visit the workshop website at

<http://register.rhdaustralia.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 Druitt Street)
Sydney NSW 2001, Australia
Phone: +61 2 9265 0700
Email: aaqhc2010@arinex.com.au

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GPET Convention: Alice Springs, 8 and 9 September

Under the theme Clinical and Cultural Competence: Everybody's Business, this year's GPET conference aims to share the challenges faced and innovations implemented in the areas of Indigenous health training, and to recognise the important role of the 'GP' within their community and the ever evolving patient-doctor relationship. Early bird closes 27 July 2010. Register Online through the 2010 GPET Convention website at <http://www.onqconferences.com.au/gpet2010/registration.php>

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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

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From: Glenn Taylor <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?IIId=831096&cId=1156791>
Register by 16 July 2010 and SAVE up to \$600
Call 1300 316 882 for more information
Email 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

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
Fax: Australia: (03) 9349 2230
<http://www.conorg.com.au>

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Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) 40th Annual Conference

Adelaide, 27-29 September 2010

The PHAA VicBranch is offering a total of five \$750 scholarships for students, Aboriginal workers, and consumers to attend the 40th PHAA Conference. For details on how Victorian Aboriginal people can apply

<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/100621ScholarshipsforAboriginalPeopletattendPHAAConf2010.doc>

Conference website is at <http://www.phaa.net.au/40thPHAAAnnualConference.php>

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The 2nd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium 'Winds of Change: New Perspectives on Rural and Remote Mental Health', in 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, in 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>.

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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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Evidence Based Healthcare Conference 'Show the Impact'
Adelaide, 27-29 October 2010

The Conference will provide an opportunity for industry professionals across a wide range of healthcare disciplines to meet and discuss the latest issues and developments in evidence-based healthcare and expand their working knowledge in order to provide the best outcomes of patient care and medical treatment. Early bird registration closes on 30 July. For more information <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/EBHC2010>

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Medical Imaging Conference: Sydney, 11 and 12 November

The Australasian Conference on Error in Medical Imaging, titled Making Imaging Safer, aims to raise awareness of preventable harm to patients due to error in Medical Imaging. For more information, including abstract criteria or registration, please visit the conference website at <http://www.conferenceworks.net.au/apsf/>

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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

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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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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 (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to 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

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

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Media Release

29 June 2010

Indigenous carers bear heavy burden in remote Australia

Australia's unpaid family carers are under strain - and in Very Remote areas almost one half of them are people of Indigenous extraction.

Census data show that unpaid carers comprised a staggering 11.2 per cent of the total population in 2006. Regional differences are not large, but there are some carer 'hot spots' in a number of Remote and Very Remote areas in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia associated with a high proportion of the caring population being Indigenous.

And, while almost two million carers are of working age, their nurturing duties require many to leave the workforce, reduce the number of hours in paid employment, or work at skill levels below their capacity.

Figures also show that about 70 per cent of carers living in Outer Regional or Remote areas were employed, compared with 77 per cent of non-carers in the same areas.

Information about Australia's carers is contained in the latest Fact Sheet prepared by the National Rural Health Alliance in collaboration with Carers Australia. Carers in the bush reports that in all parts of Australia carers are more likely to live in a jobless household than non-carers, with the greatest differences being in Outer Regional and Remote areas.

The Census showed that 380,000 people under the age of 26 were dedicated to providing care to a family member in 2006. Of that number 170,600 were under the age of 18. Carers Australia suggests this places them at risk of socio-economic disadvantage, isolation, low levels of health and impaired psychosocial development by forgoing education or paid work in order to meet their obligations.

A further impost is that 30.4 per cent of unpaid family carers reported problems with accessing a GP, employment services, banks and family assistance services including Medicare compared with 25.3 per cent of people without similar caring duties.

The full set of NRHA Fact Sheets is available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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Media Release

4 July 2010

Rural people want 'Medicare Locals' - not State-wide primary care agencies

The NRHA rejects proposals contained in the independent report commissioned by the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) on boundaries for Medicare Locals and will work strenuously against the Report's preferred options being adopted by government.

Dr Jenny May, Chairperson of the NRHA, says that by basing boundaries of the new primary care organisations on population size and organisational capability, the consultants' report has come up with proposals which would be quite contrary to the interests of people in rural and remote areas.

"The idea that there should be one primary care organisation in the whole of Tasmania, one in the Northern Territory, and one for the whole of non-metropolitan SA is absurd - and would result in even less localisation of primary care management than now exists," Dr May said.

Rural and remote Medicare Locals will have challenges that far exceed those of their relatively well-resourced metropolitan counterparts. Their challenges will be to address major gaps in primary care services and disparities in the distribution of health professionals; to support the existing health workforce; and to integrate primary care with specialist services, Local Hospital Networks, aged care and mental health services.

hubs for outreach to smaller centres. These factors require them to be locally-managed and decisions about the boundaries of LHNs must recognise patient and staff preferences, as well as the direct costs of care, travel and inter-State payments.

"Local consultation and data collection will be required for a full analysis," said Dr May. "Given the community of interest based on Alice, management of its hospital from Darwin could not reflect local control. Localised management and control of spending is essential for the appropriate delivery of services in the region - and in other rural regions across Australia."
