

**National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 22 February 2010**

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**AJRH ranked as leading rural health journal**

An audit conducted by the Australian Research Council has confirmed the high quality of the Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH). The AJRH's B ranking in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) system confirms it as the leading peer-reviewed scientific journal serving the Australian rural and remote health sector.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20ajrh%20rating%2015%20feb.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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**Subject: beyondblue & prostate cancer - nurse survey**

From: Carolyn Salmon [carolyn.salmon@beyondblue.org.au](mailto:carolyn.salmon@beyondblue.org.au)

A key priority for *beyondblue: the national depression initiative* is to raise awareness of depression and anxiety in men with prostate cancer. *beyondblue* is conducting a survey to determine how *beyondblue* can best support nurses to identify depression and anxiety in men with prostate cancer and provide appropriate follow up. The online survey is open until 14 March 2010 and is available at: <http://beyondblue.nurses-survey.sgizmo.com> It would be greatly appreciated if you could please pass this information on to your networks.

Carolyn Salmon Program Manager - co-morbidities & chronic illness  
*beyondblue: the national depression initiative*. Phone: (03) 9810 6164  
Fax: (03) 9810 6111 Mobile: 0419 100 080 *beyondblue* info line: 1300 22 4636  
<http://www.beyondblue.org.au/http://www.youthbeyondblue.com>

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**Subject: Letter from the Chair of the CRCAH to Stakeholders**

From: Alastair Harris [alastair.harris@crcah.org.au](mailto:alastair.harris@crcah.org.au)

Please find below a link an important message from Pat Anderson, Chair of the CRCAH and the interim Lowitja Institute Board about the establishment of the Lowitja Institute - Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. The letter contains important information on the new research agenda, the objectives of the Lowitja Institute and on the coming inaugural Congress Lowitja. Please take the time to read Pat Anderson's letter and contact us should you have any queries or suggestions.

<http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/downloads/Stakeholder-letter.pdf>

Alastair Harris, Communications Manager  
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<http://www.crcah.org.au>

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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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### **Join friends in 2010**

2010 is shaping up to be another interesting and important year for health in rural and remote areas. 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. We look forward to working with you again in 2010.

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### **NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship**

The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship aims to support a student with strong links to regional New South Wales to train for a professional dental career. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student commencing dentistry studies to help offset their costs in establishing themselves in their course.

Applications for 2010 are now open. Applications must be submitted by 24 February 2010. Application form available at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/otherscholarships/docs/NSW-RDS%20Application%20Form.doc>

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**Partyline is the newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance.** Partyline enables communication within the rural community and invites contributions about issues relating to health and wellbeing in rural, regional and remote parts of Australia. Subscription is free. All back copies of Partyline are available at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> Go to 'Publications' then 'Partyline'.

The December *Partyline* (#37) considers what's at risk of being forgotten in the climate change debate; reflects on the importance of education, employment and empowerment for Indigenous health; and promotes the benefits to be derived from a more positive approach to ageing. Other articles in this issue focus on roles of the health workforce and its national distribution, health promotion, rural health research, responses to health reform and the celebration of excellence in rural and remote service delivery.

Subscription to *Partyline* is free (email [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au) ) or it can be accessed on the website of the National Rural Health Alliance (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> ).

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### **CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS**

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=2>

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**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)

**February 2010 issue now available. Contents include:**

**Editorials**

Colorectal cancer screening and rural Australian communities  
Determinants of mental health and well-being in rural communities: Do we understand enough to influence planning and policy?  
Special Report - Ethics and trauma: lessons from media coverage of Black Saturday

**Original Articles**

Exploratory study examining barriers to participation in colorectal cancer screening  
Mental health and well-being within rural communities: The Australian Rural Mental Health Study  
Distress among rural residents: Does employment and occupation make a difference?  
Mental health impact for adolescents living with prolonged drought  
Synergy and sustainability in rural procedural medicine: Views from the coalface  
**Short Report** - Greater Green Triangle Diabetes Prevention Program: Remaining treatment gaps in hypertension and dyslipidaemia  
**Grazing** - A child-eating nutritionist?

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

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**AIHW REPORT**

**Indigenous identification in hospital separations data: quality report**

This report presents results of an audit of the quality of Indigenous identification in hospital separations data and makes recommendations regarding the use of Indigenous status information. The report is a useful resource for health information managers and researchers. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10637>

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**LIFELINE INFORMATION SERVICE - 1300 13 11 14**

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service Lifeline's Information Service is a rural mental health information service. Information provided includes: referral to services and web sites, printed material and a range of self help resources. The self-help resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health in a range of areas. For information and copies of resources call or visit <http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice> and further information is available at [infoservice@lifeline.org.au](mailto:infoservice@lifeline.org.au) and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS**

**Closing the gap: Prime Minister's report 2010**

This is the second report of the federal government's Closing the Gap program to deal with Indigenous disadvantage.

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/general/Pages/closing\\_the\\_gap\\_2010.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/pubs/general/Pages/closing_the_gap_2010.aspx)

Indigenous babies will have a better chance of being born healthy and staying healthy following an announcement today of Australian Government funding of \$9.1 million over three years for 10 new mothers and babies services. The 10 new services are in addition to the 43 already funded under the New Directions program which give Indigenous babies and their mothers better access to:. Ms Macklin said expanding services supporting pregnant women and new mothers in Indigenous communities was critical to giving Indigenous children the best start in life.

<http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6475>

### **83 New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers to be Placed Around the Nation**

National efforts to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation received a boost with the announcement of 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker placements across Australia.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws013.htm>

### **E-Health Foundations to be Laid**

Legislation to lay the foundations for a future secure electronic health (e-health) system has been introduced into Parliament.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr023.htm>

### **Australia's Health Workforce**

On 12 February the Australian Health Ministers Conference will hold a special workforce meeting to finalise new arrangements for future clinical training places to meet the growing workforce demands across the country.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr024.htm>

### **Initiative to Entice Rural Students Into Medicine**

The Minister for Indigenous Health and Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon launched a University of Adelaide initiative which aims to get more rural students into medical school.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws008.htm>

### **Indigenous Health Minister and League Star Kick Goals for Indigenous Health**

Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon teamed up with rugby league star Steve Renouf at the Indigenous All Stars game on the Gold Coast to promote free health checks for Indigenous Australians who are at risk of getting chronic disease.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws010.htm>

### **New National Coordinator to Tackle Indigenous Smoking**

High profile leader Mr Tom Calma has been engaged as the inaugural National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws012.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**

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

### **Health boost 'essential' for mine regions**

The Rural Doctors Association of Queensland says underfunded health services in the state's mining regions may affect the success of mining ventures.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/15/2819401.htm>

### **Indigenous health service shares in \$9m**

A Pilbara health service will receive funding when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today announces \$9 million to improve health services for Indigenous mothers and babies.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/11/2816454.htm>

### **Health groups lobby for more funding in election year**

Australia's rural health lobby groups say this year's Federal Election should give impetus to their demands for more funding in country areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201002/s2817792.htm>

### **Rural students given special entry into medicine**

The shortage of GPs in the bush is now so acute that the University of Adelaide has started a special program to attract more country students into medicine.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s2818360.htm>

### **Indigenous leader scores PM's progress report**

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2010/s2816638.htm>

### **Australian PM faces questioning over Indigenous promises**

Australia's Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, will update Parliament on what progress has been made in Indigenous living conditions since he pledged improvements two years ago.

<http://www.radioaustralianews.net.au/stories/201002/2816259.htm>

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## **10 out of 10 deadly health stories: nutrition and physical activity**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council has compiled these stories from NSW Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to demonstrate the success and potential of these Aboriginal community initiatives.

<http://www.ahmrc.org.au/Downloads/Publication/10outof10healthstories.pdf>

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**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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## **Reflections on a decade of eHealth: the second stage in healthcare transformation**

This article provides some background from the early days before there were any convenient labels for this segment, looks at where we are today with eHealth (successes and failures, gaps in understanding and in the value business case, strategic acceptance and lessons learnt) and then takes a view forward for the next decade looking at how we can expect eHealth to evolve in the real world, why it is important, what are the critical success factors, and a brief view of the world of eHealth at the end of the decade.

<http://www.epractice.eu/files/European%20Journal%20epractice%20Volume%208.3.pdf>

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## **Identifying the risks for Indigenous violent victimisation**

It is not a new observation that Indigenous people in Australia experience violence at a higher rate than the general population. The impact of violence on Indigenous people and their communities has been widely documented by government and non-government inquiries, reports and commentaries. As in all populations, some individuals, families and communities are more likely to be victims of violence than others. Identifying who is at risk, and the circumstances that increase those risks, is important for the implementation of targeted preventative strategies, such as night patrols and family counselling, and other services, including hospitals and child protection. This paper summarises the demographic and social factors associated with being a victim of violence.

<http://www.indigenousjustice.gov.au/briefs/brief006.pdf>

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## **Comprehensive national plan needed to close the gap on Indigenous health: AMA**

AMA President, Dr Andrew Pesce, said that the AMA welcomes the Government announcement of \$9.1 million for new Indigenous mothers and baby services as the latest

instalment in its commitment to close the gap on Indigenous health inequality by 2030. Dr Pesce said that every new funding announcement for Indigenous health services will make a difference - however, in regard to overall progress, the AMA endorses the Close the Gap campaign's *Shadow Report*, which finds that the Federal Government still lacks a comprehensive plan to fulfil its commitment to close the gap.

<http://www.ama.com.au/node/5328>

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## **CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA**

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

### **Current issue: 15 February 2010**

**From the Editor's Desk:** Troubles in Alberta health: déjà vu

#### **Editorials**

Improving use of medicines with clinician-led use of validated clinical indicators

Identifying the pathways to suicide in child sexual abuse victims

#### **Research**

Suicide and fatal drug overdose in child sexual abuse victims: a historical cohort study

Painting the picture: Australasian medical student views on wellbeing teaching and support services

Computerised prescribing: assessing the impact on prescription repeats and on generic substitution of some commonly used antibiotics

AUSDRISK: an Australian Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Tool based on demographic, lifestyle and simple anthropometric measures

Clinical Update - Australian experience with frozen blood products on military operations

**Review** - The Healthy Kids Check - is it evidence-based?

Medical Education - Applicant characteristics and their influence on success: results from an analysis of applicants to the University of Adelaide Medical School, 2004-2007

#### **Viewpoint**

Waiting lists and elective surgery: ordering the queue

Performance-based hospital funding: a reform tool or an incentive for fraud?

Notable Cases - Giant villous adenoma presenting as McKittrick-Wheelock syndrome and pseudo-obstruction

Lessons from Practice - Anticoagulation and intraocular haemorrhage in age-related macular degeneration: a probable link?

#### **Letters**

The growing popularity of "low-carb" beers: good marketing or community health risk?

Microbiological diagnostic tests for community-acquired pneumonia are useful

Encysted seizures: status epilepticus in a recently resettled refugee child

Outcomes of a cystic fibrosis carrier testing clinic for couples

The role of general practitioners in managing and treating hepatitis C

Timing of transfer for pregnant women from Queensland Cape York communities to Cairns for birthing

General Practice Super Clinics - how will they meet their educational objectives?

**Snapshot** - Autonomic neuropathy - an uncommon variant of Guillain-Barré syndrome

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## **Consumer-Centred Health Care: Policy Innovation and Empowerment**

National Conference, Melbourne 22-23 March 2010, Angliss Conference Centre

This conference will explore the agenda of consumer-centred health care, with a particular focus on consumers with complex and chronic health needs including disability, chronic and mental illness, and aged frailty. Day 1 will explore opportunities and scenarios in various sectors. Day 2 will explore challenges in implementation, with a focus on health plans for communities and consumers with common interests.

### **Key speakers include:**

Christine Bennett, Chair, National Health and Hospital Reform Commission  
Ian Hickie, Executive Director, Brain and Mind Research Institute  
Just Stoelwinder, Chair, Health Services Management, Monash University  
Maxine Drake, Health Consumers' Council of WA  
Philip Davies, Health Systems and Policy, University of Qld  
Samantha Thomas, Head, Consumer Health Research Group, Monash University  
Barry Welsh, Ministry of Health, New Zealand

### **Key themes include:**

Commonwealth reform initiatives: making change happen  
Organising and empowering health consumers  
Self-care and self-management in health  
Consumer-directed aged care  
Consumer-centred innovation in mental health  
Consumer-centred innovation in drug and alcohol rehabilitation  
Consumer-centred systems  
Consumer-centred funding arrangements  
Chronic illness consolidated budgets  
Capitation-based payment systems  
Health brokers, care co-ordinators, health intermediaries  
Community engagement in health reform  
*Medicare Select*: opt-in health plans  
Partnerships between practitioners and consumers

Website information at <http://www.partnerships.org.au:80/NationalConference2010.htm>

Contact information, Vern Hughes  
03 9824 4713 0425 722 890  
[info@partnerships.org.au](mailto:info@partnerships.org.au)

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**Subject: International *Healthy Parks Healthy People* Congress**  
From: Elisia Dowling

With the increasing recognition of the value of nature to human health and wellbeing worldwide, Parks Victoria will host the inaugural International *Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress* at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia from 11-16 April 2010.

This will be a unique opportunity to bring together delegates from all relevant sectors (i.e. planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, climate change, education, recreation, ecology and park management) to explore how we can take better advantage of the way nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits.

We are seeking proposals under the following themes: Healthy Communities, Healthy Parks, Healthy Participation, Healthy People and subthemes.

In addition to the partners displayed on the website, the support of the World Health Organisation, United Nations World Tourism Organisation, US Federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Australian Federal Government Department of Health & Ageing is being sought.

<http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org>

Elisia Dowling, Project Officer  
International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress April 11-16, 2010  
Parks Victoria, Level 10/535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000, Australia  
Ph: (03) 8680 2138 Fax: (03) 9613 4722 M: 0428 598 322

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### **Sustaining Rural Communities**

Social research for rural communities and all its industries. Lets plan and act for our future.  
Date: April 19 - 21st, 2010  
Venue: The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri (800 delegates)  
Format: Morning sessions - presentations. Aft ernoon sessions - engagement, workshops, planning and networks Registration: Essential. Details available on request. Cost: No entry cost

### **Conference Streams**

1. 19th April - The Research (social research concerning rural communities and economies, impacts of climate change, drought, water reforms, resources boom and global food / fibre security)
2. 20th April - The Workforces (responses to creating and sustaining regionally fl exible workforces with resilient communities)
3. 21st April - The Capacity (the Culture of Learning, building the capacity of rural people and their communities)

**For more information:** Please contact Kate Schwager on 02 6799 2477

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

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### **Effective Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery 2010**

Beyond Consultation to Shared Responsibility  
20-21 April 2010, Crowne Plaze, Alice Springs, NT

Despite the best of intentions, for centuries governments have struggled to deliver services

that are in-line with traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lifestyles. Facilitating Indigenous mobility practices and the rich cultural traditions of diverse clans has emphasised the need to move away from a one-size fits all model, to empowerment of individual communities in driving their own service delivery. When you attend this conference you will take away:

- \* Increased awareness on cultural norms and protocols for effective service delivery
- \* Tools on negotiating with government, the private sector and communities
- \* Methods on how to have ongoing input during implementation of services
- \* Case studies on service delivery initiatives that break through common barriers

Criterion is delighted to offer a select number of scholarships for indigenous community representatives to attend.

The conference brochure is now available to download at <http://www.thewebconsole.com/process/link.php?lId=698932&cId=1156791>

For more information regarding this conference, please call 1300 316 882 or visit <http://www.indigserviceelivery.com>

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## **TOWARDS SOCIAL INCLUSION**

A practitioner's guide to building a more inclusive Australia  
20-21 April 2010 National Convention Centre Canberra

In launching the statement, A Stronger, Fairer Australia, the Minister for Social Inclusion, Julia Gillard, said the provision of opportunities, resources, capabilities and responsibilities would ensure that no Australian is left behind. The social inclusion statement set out a new approach to break down the barriers preventing disadvantaged Australians from getting a 'fair go'. Ms Gillard said the principle of social inclusion had underpinned a number of recent reforms, including early childhood education and schools, social housing, the pension system and Indigenous affairs.

Ongoing conversations about social inclusion are critical to ensuring we achieve it. Don't miss out on the opportunity to become involved in this important conversation!

Attend and you will take away:

- \* A greater understanding of Australia's social inclusion agenda
- \* Strategies for weaving a social inclusion focus into policies and programs going forward
- \* A greater understanding of other sectors with whom it is important to collaborate
- \* Practical advice on how to focus your organisations work to build a more socially inclusive Australia

Towards Social Inclusion speakers include:

- \* Dr John Falzon, St Vincent de Paul Society, National Council of Australia
- \* Kerry Graham, Chief Executive Officer, The Inspire Foundation
- \* Damian Ferrie, Executive Director, Community Programs, Department of Planning and Community Development, VIC
- \* Desley Hargreaves, National Manager, Social Work Services, Centrelink

How to register:

Don't forget to register before 12 February and you can save up to \$600

Online: go to <http://www.thewebconsole.com/process/link.php?Id=718824&cId=1156791>

Tel: 1300 316 882 | Fax: 1300 918 334

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**Beyond Evidence on Reducing Health Inequities Symposium:  
What works, why and how**

27 - 28 April 2010, Adelaide

This will be the final policy event for the NHMRC-funded Australian Health Inequities Program. The aims of the Symposium are to present research-based examples of policies and programs that were designed to intervene on the social determinants of health inequities; to contribute to debates about the ways in which policy makers can build social determinants of health inequities perspectives into programs inside and outside of government; to compare progress in the uptake of social determinants of health inequities perspectives in Australia and other countries; and to consider how social determinants of health can contribute to the goal of Closing the Gap. Confirmed international speakers include Professor Sir Michael G. Marmot.

Symposium website: <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/PublicHealth/AHIP/2010/>

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**The 2nd Rural & Remote Health Scientific Symposium is to be held in Brisbane, 9-11 June 2010.**

Further information: [conference@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:conference@ruralhealth.org.au)

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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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**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).

Earlybird registration is available until Friday 14 May  
Call for abstracts closes Friday 19 March

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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**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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**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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**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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**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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**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**  
**AJRH ranked as leading rural health journal**  
15 February 2010

An audit conducted by the Australian Research Council has confirmed the high quality of the Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH). The AJRH's B ranking in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) system confirms it as the leading peer-reviewed scientific journal serving the Australian rural and remote health sector.

The recently-released independent study of more than 20,000 scientific publications ranks the AJRH alongside the US Journal of Rural Health, with which a joint issue of AJRH is planned later in 2010.

"This ERA ranking is a great outcome for the AJRH," said its Editor, Professor James Dunbar, who is also Director of the Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health in Warrnambool, Victoria.

"Our editorial team works hard to ensure that the AJRH publishes high-quality and relevant articles that advance policy and practice in Australia's rural and remote health sector. This ranking will encourage researchers to seek publication in the AJRH, and there is a speedy and largely automated system in place for handling and tracking their manuscripts," he said.

The evaluation was ordered in 2008 by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr. A media statement at the time said: "The ERA initiative will assess research quality within Australia's higher education institutions and will give government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted. It will also provide a national stock-take, by research discipline areas, of research strength against international benchmarks."

The AJRH is owned and managed by the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) in partnership with its Journal Associates, The Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty of the Royal College of Nursing Australia, CRANaplus and Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health. Gordon Gregory, Executive Director of the NRHA, said: "For 18 years the AJRH has delivered quality research on rural and remote health issues and we value this confirmation of its standards."

Dr Amanda Davis, Publishing Director of Life Sciences and Professional at Wiley-Blackwell Asia Pacific, congratulated the AJRH on its achievement. "In the highly competitive journal market this ranking is a clear endorsement of its intellectual merit and its mission to provide a top class basis of evidence for rural and remote health practice," she said.

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