

**National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 27 January 2010**

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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. Afternoon 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 flexible 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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**Rural Health Education Foundation LIVE simultaneous webcast and satellite broadcast**

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Clinical Guideline for Diagnosis and Management

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Nationally 8.00pm NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS; 7.30pm SA; 7.00pm QLD; 6.30 NT; 5pm WA

This program covers the recommendations for the early diagnosis and multidisciplinary management of JIA in the primary care setting. It examines the practice points related to early identification, referral, prevention of complications, minimisation of pain and joint damage and improved quality of life. It includes a filmed case study of Camp Footloose. This program is the first in a four-part series on the new MSK Guidelines.

[http://www.rhef.com.au/program-1/?program\\_id=389](http://www.rhef.com.au/program-1/?program_id=389)

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**Community Services and Health Environmental Scan - Only a few days left to have your say!**

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (ISC) are conducting the 2010 Community Services and Health Environmental Scan. This is your last chance to 'Have your say' and contribute your valuable knowledge. It is important that a diverse range of industry intelligence is captured as it provides the context and driving force behind the continuous improvement of Training Packages and shaping national policy for workforce development requirements in the community services and health industries.

Visit the project webpage at

[https://www.cshisc.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=162](https://www.cshisc.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=162)

to learn more about the Environmental Scan process and how you can inform the ISC's future work plan. The survey closes on Wednesday 27 January 2010.

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**Health and Medical Education Project Officer - Rural Health Education Foundation**

The Rural Health Education Foundation is seeking an experienced and dynamic health professional for the position of Health and Medical Education Project Officer located in its Canberra office. The position is full time with a 12 month contract, with good likelihood for ongoing renewal. For information about the position please visit the Foundation's website <http://www.rhef.com.au/employment-opportunities> or contact Maurie O'Connor on 02 62325480

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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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**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.indigsericedelivery.com>

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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>

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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**AIHW REPORT**

More children needing protection

Over the past year, the number of children on care and protection orders and the number of children in out-of-home care increased by almost 10%. In 2008 there were almost 35,500 children on a care and protection order and just over 34,000 children in out-of-home care, the majority of whom were either in foster care (47%) or living with relatives (45%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be over-represented in the child protection system, with the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care over nine times the rate of their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2010/mr20100121.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10859>

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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?

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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### **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**

Broadband initiative improving regional health services

The Rudd Government has announced four additional projects for the Digital Regions Initiative. "These projects will change the way essential services are delivered to regional, rural and remote Australian communities," the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy said.

[http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media\\_releases/2010/003](http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2010/003)

E Health to Deliver a Better, More Efficient System

Patient care will be improved and inefficiency in the health system will be cut by new e-health legislation soon to be introduced by the Rudd Government.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr010.htm>

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### **Indigenous affairs report, Victoria, 2008-09**

This report details key actions taken by the Victorian government in 2008-09 and measures performance against 23 indicators. It includes a demographic profile of Victoria's Indigenous community, Indigenous governance arrangements and highlights the key partnership arrangements between individual departments and Indigenous communities. A feature of this

year's report is a focus on a particular area of the VIAF - Early Childhood Development and Education.

[http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/DPCD\\_WOG+Report08-09/\\$file/DPCD\\_WOG+Report08-09.pdf](http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/web7/rwpgslib.nsf/GraphicFiles/DPCD_WOG+Report08-09/$file/DPCD_WOG+Report08-09.pdf)

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**AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ONLINE**

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

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

The Bush Support Services Line is a 24 hour confidential telephone support service for workers, and their families, who work in health related services in remote and isolated situations. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information:

<http://www.bss.crana.org.au>

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**RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC**

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

**Lack of training contributed to baby death, coroner hears**

An organisation aimed at reducing deaths among infants says it is more difficult to educate parents and hospital staff in regional areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/13/2791505.htm>

**New partnership promises Indigenous health boost**

A new partnership between the Wiradjuri community and a major university is being set up to improve the health of Indigenous people.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/19/2795681.htm>

**Foreign doctors plan sparks bush fears**

A group supplying doctors to regional Australia says the number of country GPs would be severely reduced with the scrapping of a policy requiring overseas-trained people to work in regional areas for 10 years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/20/2796562.htm>

**Pressure building on overseas doctor policy**

The Australian Medical Association wants the policy that puts overseas trained doctors in rural communities scrapped.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201001/s2795847.htm>

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**Expression of Interest - RRH Australasian co-Regional Editor**

Rural and Remote Health (RRH) is seeking expressions of interest for the position of co-Australasian Regional Editor. This is a shared position for the editorial management and co-ordination of RRH's busy Australasian list. The person we are seeking will have a passion for academic publishing. Clinical qualifications in any health discipline and a record of health or educational research is also desirable.

Located at <http://www.rrh.org.au>, RRH is an international peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing rural and remote health education, research, policy and clinical practice, including Indigenous health. RRH is supported by the Australian University Departments of Rural Health and Rural Clinical Schools and has the capacity to create instant scholarly impact in the rural communities the programs serve.

Complementing the Australasian section are African, European and North American regional sections, each with its own Regional Editor. The appointment of an Asian Regional Editor is expected early in 2010. RRH is managed by a small, committed but geographically dispersed team. The Editor-in-Chief Professor Paul Worley is located in South Australia, while Associate Professor Ann Larson the co-Australasian Editor is in Western Australia. The successful applicant will work closely with these Editors, and also the Production Editor and Journal Manager on a daily basis.

In addition to a clinical background, the ideal candidate will have some experience of the processes of an academic peer reviewed journal and an understanding of the mechanism of online journal review and publication. This is a honorary position.

For further information, please contact:

Paul Worley (Editor in Chief) +61 8 8204 4618 +61 8 8204 4618

[paul.worley@flinders.edu.au](mailto:paul.worley@flinders.edu.au)

Ann Larson (Australasian co-Regional Editor) mobile: 0427070683

[alarson@cucr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:alarson@cucr.uwa.edu.au)

Jen Richmond (Production Editor) [jen.richmond@rrh.org.au](mailto:jen.richmond@rrh.org.au)

Please forward your CV with a short response outlining your suitability for the position, by cob 8 February 2010, to Jen Richmond at [jen.richmond@rrh.org.au](mailto:jen.richmond@rrh.org.au)

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**RDA NEWS**

RDA NSW media release - Bellingen Hospital

15 January 2010

[http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/RDA%20NSW%20-%20Bellingen%20Hospital%20-%202015%20January%202010.pdf](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDA%20NSW%20-%20Bellingen%20Hospital%20-%202015%20January%202010.pdf)

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**AMA urges greater support for international medical graduates (IMGs)**

The AMA has written to Health Minister Nicola Roxon urging greater support for

international medical graduates (IMGs) working in Australia, highlighting the problems they face in accessing basic community services such as Medicare and public education.

AMA President, Dr Andrew Pesce, said the AMA has always been a strong supporter of the role played by IMGs in providing health services in the Australian community and wants them to continue as respected and valued members of the Australian medical workforce.

"Along with better access to health and education services for IMGs, we would like the Government to abandon the current 10-year moratorium, which effectively forces many IMGs to work exclusively in rural and remote areas for 10 years or more," Dr Pesce said.

The full AMA statement is at <http://www.ama.com.au/node/5281>

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### **CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA**

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

#### Rapid Online Publication

Infection control of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in hospitals - a logistic challenge - 11 January 2010

Oseltamivir-resistant pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in a severely ill patient: the first Australian case - 11 January 2010

Current issue: 18 January 2010

#### Editorials

Planned home birth in Australia: politics or science?

Immigration detention and health

Partnership with patients to improve patient safety

#### Research

The health of people in Australian immigration detention centres

Symptoms and suffering at the end of life in children with cancer: an Australian perspective

Planned home and hospital births in South Australia, 1991-2006: differences in outcomes

#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

A pandemic response to a disease of predominantly seasonal intensity

Hospitalised adult patients with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza in Melbourne, Australia

The rational clinician in a pandemic setting

Comparison of adult patients hospitalised with pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza and seasonal influenza during the "PROTECT" phase of the pandemic response

The changing phases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Queensland: an overview of public health actions and epidemiology

Clinical Update - How do we manage patients who become unemployed?

For Debate - Pandemic influenza testing at the coalface: time for reassessment?

#### Letters

The case for newborn screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia in Australia

Glycaemic control in patients with type 1 diabetes after provision of public hospital-funded insulin pumps

Norovirus diarrhoeal disease in infants and children

Recognising congenital glaucoma

Junior doctors' perceptions of their preparedness for hospital work: support for the rural

clinical school model as a key to better preparation  
Evidence-based uncertainty: recent trial results on prostate-specific antigen testing and prostate cancer mortality  
Patterns of mortality in Indigenous adults in the Northern Territory, 1998-2003  
A national approach to perinatal mental health in Australia: exercising caution in the roll-out of a public health initiative  
Is uptake of genetic testing for colorectal cancer influenced by knowledge of insurance implications?  
Poll tax and preventive cardiology in Australia  
Book Reviews

A history of the "unfortunate experiment" at National Women's Hospital  
Practical cardiology

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**ARTICLE IN 'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH'**

**'Aboriginal science symposium: enabling Aboriginal student success in post-secondary institutions'**

Mainstream education has consistently undervalued Indigenous knowledge and this can be quite frustrating for educators and students of Aboriginal origin. Has this failure to teach from a broad cultural orientation resulted in the under-representation of Aboriginal persons in health and science occupations? A unique collaborative initiative grew from Canada's University of Lethbridge Support Program for Aboriginal Nursing Students: the 2009 Aboriginal Science Symposium. Academics worldwide interested in developing more inclusive curricula should review the recommendations from this Symposium.  
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1324>

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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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**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 ([www.papaolalokahi.org](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: Call for abstracts  
The 2010 national conference and scientific forum of ACRRM and RDAA will be in Perth in October. The scientific forum is a significant part of the conference and is held every second year. There will be a call for abstracts early in the new year. Almost 300 people attended Rural Medicine Australia 2009.

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

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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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