

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 30 March 2007

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9TH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE, 7-10 MARCH 2007,  
ALBURY NSW

The National Rural Health Alliance has published on its website (<http://9thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/registration/?IntCatId=2>) the full set of 250 recommendations from delegates at the 9th National Rural Health Conference held in Albury earlier this month. The full set of recommendations provides a valuable snapshot of people's thinking on rural and remote health at the beginning of this important year. It is clear that there are a number of successful local programs that should be replicated more widely, some good ideas about how health workforce challenges can be overcome, and quite a number of specific research proposals relating to rural and remote health. At the same time, the recommendations make clear the anxiety of the sector about boundary issues between jurisdictions, professions and practice modes, and about how health reform at local, state and national levels could improve outcomes for patients.

The recommendations came from four sources: from the authors of the papers presented at the Conference in concurrent sessions, from Keynote addresses, from the opinions expressed in concurrent sessions and from groups of concerned individuals.

The full set has been edited by the NRHA for some consistency of style and format, while retaining, in good faith, the intentions of the recommendations' proposers. This means that the full set contains some individual proposals which may not be consistent with each other. The recommendations process, in which all Conference delegates took part, resulted in eighteen priority proposals which were evaluated and approved by Conference delegates on the final day. These will now be promoted by the NRHA and other interested parties as key changes which will improve the evidence base, health outcomes and health services in the bush.

As for the full set of 250, they provide qualitative evidence about issues of concern and fertile ground for researchers and would-be researchers to till over. The Alliance intends to build an omnibus rural and remote health research agenda from proposals at the Conference, and include it in the organisation's ongoing advocacy for a greater focus on rural and remote issues in the national health research agenda.

Whereas the Alliance has a clear and important mandate to promote the eighteen priority recommendations on behalf of the sector, it has to check others among the 250 with its 27 Member Bodies before it has a formal position on them.

Media Statements from the Conference are as follows:

- \* [From the 9th Conference: plans for rural and remote health](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/9th%20conf_plans%20for%20rr%20health%2015%20march.pdf) -  
[http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/9th%20conf\\_plans%20for%20rr%20health%2015%20march.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/9th%20conf_plans%20for%20rr%20health%2015%20march.pdf)
- \* [9th Conference: the rural health sector recommits to action](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/conference%20media%20with%20communique%20and%20recs%2015%20march.pdf) -  
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/conference%20media%20with%20communique%20and%20recs%2015%20march.pdf>
- \* [Good health - not just about giving up smoking and taking up exercise](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/good%20health%20%20smoking%20and%20exercise.pdf) -  
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/good%20health%20%20smoking%20and%20exercise.pdf>
- \* [Top Performers in Rural Health Care Honoured](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/top%20rural%20health%20performers%20%20honoured.pdf) -  
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/top%20rural%20health%20performers%20%20honoured.pdf>
- \* [Grumpy old men perform secret men's business - and more - in Men's Sheds](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/grumpy%20old%20men.pdf) -  
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/grumpy%20old%20men.pdf>
- \* [Country Australians deserve an equal share in Australia's wealth](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/8%20march%20country%20australians%20deserve%20equal%20share.pdf) -  
<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/8%20march%20country%20australians%20deserve%20equal%20share.pdf>

\* [Health Reform, Health Professionals and Service Planning - http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/070307%20health%20reform%20health%20professionals%20day%2020%20207%20march%20071.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/070307%20health%20reform%20health%20professionals%20day%2020%20207%20march%20071.pdf)

\* [Rural Health - It's All Happening in Albury at opening of 9th National Rural Health Conference - http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/070307%20media%20notification%207%20%20march%20nrh%20conference.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/070307%20media%20notification%207%20%20march%20nrh%20conference.pdf)

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## EARLY DETECTION: THE NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

LIVE satellite TV broadcast Tuesday 10th April 2007 (repeated Friday 13th April 12:30pm EST). Produced by the Rural Health Education Foundation Funded by Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

This program discusses the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) by outlining the evidence for screening, the screening procedure and risks, the screening pathway, and the role and responsibilities of medical and other health practitioners under the NBCSP. Topics covered in the program include the results of the NBCSP pilot program, what to expect from the first phase of the NBCSP, and the NBCSP Register.

Presenters include Professor James St John, Gastroenterologist, Honorary Senior Associate, The Cancer Council Victoria; Dr Jenny May, Rural General Practitioner, Tamworth NSW; Dr Linda Foreman, General Practitioner from Bowel Cancer Screening Pilot Program, Adelaide; and Ms Dianne Jones, Clinical Nurse – Gastroenterology, Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA), Brisbane.

Program information can be found by clicking <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/704/704.html>

It is recommended that viewers let the Foundation know that they will be attending and on what day they will be attending. Call the Foundation on (02) 6232 5480 to RSVP.

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From: Scott Wagner <[scott.wagner@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.wagner@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au)>

Subject: NSW Rural Allied Health Conference 2007, Dubbo, October 18-19

Details are at <http://www.nswrahc.com>. The call for abstracts is now open. Feel free to contact me to discuss.

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From: Alan Staines <[alanstaines@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alanstaines@optusnet.com.au)>

Subject: Inaugural Australian Postvention Conference, USNW - Sydney, Thursday 24th-26th May

The Inaugural Australian Postvention Conference is being held at the USNW - Sydney, Thursday 24th-26th May. Details of the Conference program with registration and a call for abstracts are listed on our website at <http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au>. An email can be sent to [postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au](mailto:postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au)

Invited presenters who are all experts in the field include Dr Frank Campbell (USA), Dr Adrian Hill (Canada), Prof Annette Beautrais (New Zealand), Dr Karl Andriessen (Belgium) and Michelle Linn-Gust (USA). Australian presenters include Dr Sheila Clark, Dr Judith Murray, Chief Inspector Gary Raymond and Professor Peter Bycroft.

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Manuscript submissions to The Australian Journal of Rural Health can now be made online through Manuscript Central. Easy and fast submission process; track the progress of your article at any time; safe and secure site. Simply log on to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> to submit your manuscript today and share the wealth of your knowledge. Full author instructions and guidelines can be found at the AJRH homepage - <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ajr>

The February 2007 issue of the journal is available online now at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr>. Articles include:

- \* Consideration of the determinants of women's mental health in remote Australian mining towns
- \* Double-bundle reconstruction of the anterior cruciate ligament
- \* Medical students and rural general practitioners: Congruent views on the reality of recruitment into rural medicine
- \* Use of clinical placements as a means of recruiting health care students to underserved areas in Southeastern Ontario: Part 1 – Student perspectives
- \* Use of clinical placements as a means of recruiting health care professionals to underserved areas in Southeastern Ontario: Part 2 – Community perspectives
- \* 'Shared Care – Shared Dream': Model of shared care in rural Australia between mental health services and general practitioners
- \* Medical clinic facilities and doctor characteristics: What older rural men value
- \* Health professional partnerships and their impact on Aboriginal health: An occupational therapist's and Aboriginal health worker's perspective

- \* Cultural and communication awareness for general practice registrars who are international medical graduates: A project of CoastCityCountry Training
- \* Informing rural and remote students about careers in health: The effect of Health Careers
- \* Short Reports
- \* Grazing

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## INQUIRY INTO PATIENT TRAVEL SUPPORT

On 28 March 2007 the Senate agreed that the following matter be referred to the Community Affairs Committee for inquiry and report by 20 September 2007:

The operation and effectiveness of Patient Assisted Travel Schemes including:

- \* the need for greater national consistency and uniformity of Patient Assisted Travel Schemes across jurisdictions, especially the procedures used to determine eligibility for travel schemes covering patients, their carers, escorts and families; the level and forms of assistance provided; and reciprocal arrangements for inter-state patients and their carers;
- \* the need for national minimum standards to improve flexibility for rural patient access to specialist health services throughout Australia;
- \* the extent to which local and cross-border issues are compromising the effectiveness of existing Patient Assisted Travel Schemes in Australia, in terms of patient and health system outcomes;
- \* the current level of utilisation of schemes and identification of mechanisms to ensure that schemes are effectively marketed to all eligible patients and monitored to inform continuous improvement;
- \* variations in patient outcomes between metropolitan and rural, regional and remote patients and the extent to which improved travel and accommodation support would reduce these inequalities;
- \* the benefit to patients in having access to a specialist who has the support of a multidisciplinary team and the option to seek a second opinion;
- \* the relationship between initiatives in e Health and Patient Assisted Travel Schemes;
- \* the feasibility and desirability of extending patient assisted travel schemes to all treatments listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule – Enhanced Primary Care items such as allied health and dental treatment and fitting of artificial limbs; and

\* the role of charity and non-profit organisations in the provision of travel and accommodation assistance to patients.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

**The Secretary**

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**PO Box 6100**

**Parliament House**

**Canberra ACT 2600**

**Closing date for the receipt of submissions is 25 May 2007.** The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document - email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au). Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at the public hearings.

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the internet at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

For further details contact the Committee Secretary, Phone: (02) 6277 3515,  
Fax: (02) 6277 5829.  
E-mail: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

See details at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/pats/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/pats/index.htm)

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has strongly welcomed the Senate inquiry into the operation and effectiveness of patient assisted travel schemes. The Association hopes the inquiry's findings will lead to a much fairer deal for rural Australians when they have to travel to larger centres for medical diagnosis and treatment, and even to give birth. The RDAA statement is at [http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded\\_documents/Inquiry%20into%20Patient%20Travel%20Support%20Great%20News%20for%20the%20Bush%20--%20March%202007.htm](http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Inquiry%20into%20Patient%20Travel%20Support%20Great%20News%20for%20the%20Bush%20--%20March%202007.htm)

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Join friends of the Alliance in 2007. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2007', a 2007 friends certificate, regular issues of PARTYline newsletter, and be eligible for a discounted registration at the 9th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Albury next month. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance's information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

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## PARTYline Newsletter

The Alliance's newsletter, PARTYline, is a means of exchanging information between those with an interest in rural health, including friends of the Alliance, health consumers, health professionals, students and policy makers. Contributors report on their personal rural experiences, on programs with which they have been involved, provide information on new initiatives and resources, and it is a vehicle for opinions on rural health issues and events.

PARTYline has a print circulation around Australia of 13,000 and is also available on-line below. PARTYline readily accepts contributions from readers - articles (up to 500 words) and photographs can be sent to [partyline@ruralhealth.org.au](mailto:partyline@ruralhealth.org.au)

Latest Issue: Number 29, March 2007

### In This Issue

- \* the urgency of dental workforce shortages
- \* evaluation of the Rural Health Strategy
- \* the new viability supplement for rural aged care
- \* the new Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarships, including interviews with two of the first round recipients
- \* day-to-day living amid the Victorian bushfires
- \* the award winning Naiyu 'Swim for Life' project
- \* rural and remote workforce promotion
- \* closure of Bourke pre-school
- \* The Australian Health Care Reform Alliance Summit in July
- \* a lift-out describing aspects of the NRHA's Budget Submission
- \* program information for those will attend the 9th National Rural Health Conference in Albury (7-10 March), and
- \* reader's photos on the theme "Country kids having fun".

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From: Don Perlgut <[ceo@rhef.com.au](mailto:ceo@rhef.com.au)>

Subject: "Keep Safe" DVD available free from the Rural Health Education Foundation

The Rural Health Education Foundation has been generously funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to offer our injury prevention program, Keep Safe, on DVD or VHS video for free.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are three times more likely to die from injury than other Australians. The Keep Safe, <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/606/606.html>, program, initially broadcast in May 2006, offers models and ideas for communities on what can work for them in the area of preventing injuries in Aboriginal communities, and how some communities are managing these problems. The program is presented by Ms Karla Grant, Presenter of the Living Black program on SBS Television.

Program participants include Dr Kathleen Clapham, Senior Research Fellow, Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Division, the George Institute for International Health; Ms Angela Dowling, Coordinator Top End Women's Legal Service, Women's Outreach Unit NT; and Ms Alison Hunt, Community Worker, Alice Springs.

For further information about this program go to <http://www.rhef.com.au/news/070222/070222.html>

To order your free DVD or VHS video copy of Keep Safe (one per person or organisation only within Australia), please email us at [keepsafe@rhef.com.au](mailto:keepsafe@rhef.com.au); or fax us on (02) 6232-5484 specifying your preferred format and providing your name, organisation, postal address, contact telephone number and email address. Note that the number of copies is limited so place your order quickly.

For information on other programs available for purchase from the Rural Health Education Foundation, go to our DVD & Video order page <http://www.rhef.com.au/order/order.html>

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LIFELINE'S JUST ASK - 1 300 13 11 14

Your Rural Mental Health Information Service

Lifeline's Just ask 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.justask.org.au> and further information is available at [national@lifeline.org.au](mailto:national@lifeline.org.au) and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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MEDICAL STUDENTS TO GET TO KNOW THE BUSH

(Extract from FarmOnline – free subscription at <http://www.farmonline.com.au>)

Thursday, 22 March 2007

A new scholarship program that encourages medical students to complete at least one year of training in a rural area has been launched by the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF). The ARHRF has awarded 26 scholarships, worth \$5,000 each, to students undertaking a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at one of the Australian Government's 13 Rural Clinical Schools. The full article is at [http://www.farmonline.com.au/news\\_daily.asp?ag\\_id=41316](http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=41316)

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#### RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

(From Google Alert, <http://www.googlealert.com>)

#### [Rural Health Care - USAC](#)

This is the basic introduction page to the two audiences served by the rural health care program.

<http://www.universalservice.org/rhc/>

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#### FEDERAL LABOR'S COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL BROADBAND - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR REGION?

The most critical infrastructure investment Australia must make in our regions is the rollout of high speed broadband according to Opposition regional development spokesperson, Simon Crean.

“Labor’s broadband commitment will address that failure and will revolutionise Australia’s internet infrastructure, delivering a new broadband network. With the rollout of a new ‘Fibre to the Node’ (FTTN) network, it will connect 98% of Australians to high speed broadband services – at a minimum speed of 12 megabits per second, a speed almost 40 times faster than most current speeds. The remaining 2% of Australians in regional and remote areas not covered by this network will have improved broadband services,” Mr Crean said.

A table on the roll-out for each region is available at [http://www.alp.org.au/download/benefit\\_to\\_your\\_region.pdf](http://www.alp.org.au/download/benefit_to_your_region.pdf)

The full text of Mr Crean’s statement is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0307/msrd210.php>

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#### NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'Rural healthcare provider opinions about implementation of an after-hours rural telephone triage system'

Could an after-hours triage system benefit your rural health service? Before you start, it may be helpful to learn from the experience of this group from rural Victoria, Australia.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=656>

'Psychological services in five South-west Queensland communities - supply and demand'

Mental health is regarded as a high priority area for rural health. But are there enough qualified professionals to provide psychological intervention, support and counselling? This study from rural Queensland suggests not.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=543>

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#### NEW INVESTMENT IN CANCER CARE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Territorians are one step closer to having access to world-class cancer treatment, thanks to the joint efforts of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments. Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing Tony Abbott and Northern Territory Minister for Health Dr Chris Burns MLA have announced their Governments' agreement to develop a modern radiation therapy clinic in Darwin. The full text of the Ministers' statement is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-ta-abb024.htm>

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#### BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. 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.bushcrisisline.org.au>

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#### RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

(From ABC Rural Newsletter, <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/default.htm> and Health Updates, <http://www.abc.net.au/health/maillinglist.htm>)

Abbott hangs back from petrol-sniffing victory claim

The federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott, has played down reports from Central Australia that the roll-out of the non-sniffable Opal fuel in regional areas has ended a decade-long petrol sniffing crisis.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200703/s1874475.htm>

Macklin pushes for Indigenous health funding boost

The Federal Opposition's Indigenous affairs spokeswoman says she will be lobbying her colleagues for a boost in Indigenous health funding if Labor wins office.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200703/s1876596.htm>

Rural Australia to Fight Social Stigma of Depression (The World Today: 21/03/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2007/s1878121.htm>

Mt Isa (Stateline Queensland: 23/03/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/stateline/qld/content/2006/s1880342.htm>

Senate to probe patient travel aid

A Senate inquiry will look into the effectiveness of patient-assisted travel schemes that are used by rural people to access medical treatment. The Community Affairs Committee is to report on its findings by September 20.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200703/s1885946.htm>

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**GOVERNMENT REPORT CONFIRMS NEED FOR BETTER ASSESSMENT OF OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS: AMA**

Details of an unreleased Government report published in The Australian newspaper confirm the urgent need for more rigorous assessment of the skills and qualifications

of overseas trained doctors (OTDs), according to the AMA. The report found that systems to check the credentials of OTDs had not improved since the Jayant Patel scandal in Bundaberg.

The full text of the AMA statement is at <http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-6ZK7L8>

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From: Relate Human Services <[relate@bigpond.net.au](mailto:relate@bigpond.net.au)>

Subject: ACCFPP Conference 2007

You are invited to attend the second national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Melbourne - 19 to 21 May 2007 at the Victoria Hotel, Little Collins Street.

The conference theme "Borders and Bridges" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Diverse state data collection systems and differences in risk and safety assessment supply the foundation of a lack of systematic planning. Workforce roles are similar but skills and qualifications are not truly comparable. Different levels of non-government and government services across the three tiers of government add to the complexity. The ACCFPP aims to build bridges between agencies and professions to minimise the impacts of poverty and mental illness on Australian families and children.

The Conference secretariat is based at the Mackay Offices of Relate Human Services, PO Box 1401, Mackay 4740, Phone 07-49575400 Fax 07-49575488 email: [accfpp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:accfpp@bigpond.net.au)

<http://www.relatehumanservices.com.au>

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From: Kelli Dopson <[kdopson@healthworkforce.com.au](mailto:kdopson@healthworkforce.com.au)>

Subject: 18th Annual RDAQ Conference: Shifting Sands, Changing Tides: the next generation

18th Annual RDAQ Conference: Shifting Sands, Changing Tides: the next generation

7-10 June 2007, Rydges Capricorn Resort, Yeppoon

Join us on the Capricorn Coast for the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Conference to develop your skills and have your say on the future of rural health. Topics include Workforce solutions, Maternity services, Medico-political forum, Indigenous women's health, Mental health, Barriers facing IMGs, Cardiology, Toxicology, Musculoskeletal medicine, Acute behavioural emergencies, and much much more.

REGISTER NOW for discounted rates!

For program and registration details visit <http://www.rdaq.com.au/conference> or call 07 3105 7800

Kelli Dopson

Event Manager | RDAQ Conference 2007

Tel: 07 3105 7800 | Fax: 07 3105 7801

[kdopson@healthworkforce.com.au](mailto:kdopson@healthworkforce.com.au)

<http://www.rdaq.com.au>

GPO Box 2523, Brisbane, Qld 4001

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From: Michael Blair <[blamel@ozemail.com.au](mailto:blamel@ozemail.com.au)>

Subject: Australian College of Mental Health Nurses 33rd Annual International Conference

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses is to hold its 33rd Annual Conference in Cairns in 2007.

The theme for the conference, "Mental Health Nurses: Making Waves", not only illustrates the tropical location of the 2007 conference, it is also intended to reflect the idea that historically derived factors influencing development in Mental Health Nursing, reach out and influence others with related concerns.

Waves convey ideas of movement and change. History evolves as events change. Its influence on the future changes with developments that are based on the lessons learnt and experienced. As a wave rolls through, its predecessor is completely changed and yet waves are comprised of those that have come before. Our theme challenges presenters to address related topics. We know that mental health issues will remain important to communities and individuals in the years and decades to come. Mental health nursing is challenged to make waves and to be a key player in this expanding sphere.

The ACMHN Inc., through its national Conferences, local seminars, educational functions, scholarships and awards, has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with key sponsors. We hope that existing sponsors will take this opportunity to continue a mutually rewarding relationship, and that new groups will be inspired to join us.

The Web site URL for persons to express an interest in attending or sponsoring the conference is <http://www.astmanagement.com.au/anzcmhc7/>

All those persons that express an interest in attending via the web site will go into the draw for a free registration to the conference.

The conference will be held at the International Hotel in Cairns from the 8th to the 12th of October 2007.

For further information contact:

Mick Blair

Co-convenor

ACMHN Inc. 33rd International Conference 2007

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From: Nicky Reavell <[nicky@pallcare.org.au](mailto:nicky@pallcare.org.au)>

Subject: 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference

Partners Across the Lifespan

Palliative Care Victoria in conjunction with Palliative Care Australia is hosting the 9th Australian Palliative Care Conference. It will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria Australia from Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 August 2007.

The conference website is <http://www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007>

Palliative Care Australia

PO Box 24

Deakin West ACT 2600

Ph: +61 2 6232 4433

Fax: +61 2 6232 4434

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

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From: Mcalpin, Susan <[SMcalpin@csu.edu.au](mailto:SMcalpin@csu.edu.au)>

Subject: International Rural Network World Rural Forum

The International Rural Network World Rural Forum, India, Late Jan-Early Feb 2008: Innovation for Sustainable Local Development.

The main focus of the Forum will be on innovation in education, health, resource management, governance, and sustainable development to improve the quality of life of rural people and reduce rural poverty and social exclusion.

The forum will be based in the beautiful rural town of Udaipur, Rajasthan, which is also the home of IRN Board Member Lakshmi Murthy.

The Forum will involve five days, with at least one day (or equivalent) in local field visits to see the relevant work of NGOs etc. There are likely to be optional additional visits after the Forum either to the famous Institute of Rural Management in Anand, Gujarat and/or to the equally famous Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan.

The date of the conference will be around the end of January or beginning of February 2008. If you are interested, please check out our website at <http://www.International-Rural-Network.org> and email [Nicola.swan@btinternet.com](mailto:Nicola.swan@btinternet.com) to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

#### IRN Aims

Poverty and disadvantage is a common feature of rural areas and people across the world. This is explicitly recognised in the UN Millennium Development Goals. By providing a global forum for academics, practitioners, NGOs and policy makers concerned with sustainable rural development, education and health, the IRN aims to stimulate exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas, and create regional and global support networks. In this way it helps to develop a storehouse of knowledge and expertise on rural concerns, and to raise the profile and policy impacts of rural people, their NGOs and other organisations aiming for local empowerment, engagement, and supporting activities including policies.

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#### CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. 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)).

As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the view of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at [grovesc@winshop.com.au](mailto:grovesc@winshop.com.au)

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