

National Rural Health Alliance eforum - 8 February 2010

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Budget must address need for rural health hubs

The Executive Director of the National Rural Health Alliance, Gordon Gregory, has called on the Rudd Government to make substantial new health investment on two key fronts in the 2010-11 Budget.

"Major investments are needed in selected regional centres so that they become comprehensive service hubs, with additional resource made available for small towns of up to 12,000 people. The result would be better access to integrated health care services at a regional level, and to primary and aged care in smaller towns," Mr Gregory said.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20budget%20submission%202010%20final.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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Crikey is right: the real priorities in health are outside the cities

Writing in *Crikey* yesterday, Bernard Keane argued that the real priorities in health are mainly outside cities. He is right - a man born in a disadvantaged part of western New South Wales can expect to live about 11 years less than one born in an affluent Sydney suburb.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mrcrkey%20is%20correct%20final.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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Submission on Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010

The Alliance has made a submission to the Department of Health and Ageing on the Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010. The submission can be found in the Publications/Submissions Section of the Alliance website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=58&IntCatId=6>

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January 2010 E-news from the NRHA

Welcome to 2010! Here is your regularly monthly run down of what's happening at the Alliance.

Policy work

We are currently completing our Budget submission, arguing that a number of initiatives to improve health outcomes and services in rural and remote areas should be implemented in the May Budget, rather than being put off until other health reform matters are finalised. Key investments in primary care, oral health, maternity services and related workforce developments should be in the vanguard of health reform. The centrepiece should be new investment in regional health service hubs and medium-sized towns, and in the relationships they have to the smaller places to which they provide outreach services.

The Alliance is closely involved with the Office of Rural Health and the rural health sections of the State and Northern Territory jurisdictions in the development of a new national strategic framework for rural and remote health. Consultations are being arranged by Siggins Miller, the consultant appointed to the task.

The Alliance is on the organising group for the 2nd Rural & Remote Health Scientific Symposium to be held in Brisbane, 9-11 June 2010. Further information: conference@ruralhealth.org.au

Submissions have been made to the Department of Health and Ageing on the Exposure Draft Healthcare Identifiers Bill 2010 and on rural and remote aspects of a national mental health workforce strategy. (They are available on the website.)

The Alliance commissioned the AIHW to produce a report on the rural/remote health deficit. Issues relating to the sustainability of small rural communities also remain a priority for the Alliance. A Fact Sheet on carers living in rural and remote areas is being prepared in conjunction with Carers Australia.

NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship open

The NSW Regional Dentistry Scholarship is for a first year dentistry student from regional New South Wales. Applications close on 24 February 2010. Details and application at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/otherscholarships/?IntCatId=43>

RAMUS 2010

The large number of eligible applications received by the closing date for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme are currently being assessed against the guidelines. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application in late February.

Information about the scheme is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntCatId=7>

Contribute to Partyline in 2010

To contribute to the next edition of Partyline (article, photo, letter to the editor, poem), contact partyline@ruralhealth.org.au

The next edition is being produced in conjunction with the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute at the ANU.

Back copies are available on the Partyline page of the website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

Australian Journal of Rural Health

Issue 18(1) has a special report on ethics and trauma, reviewing the lessons from media coverage of Black Saturday, together with articles on colorectal cancer, and several articles on mental health - including an initial report of the Australian rural mental health study.

The Australian Journal of Rural Health is available to subscribers online and in hard copy. Access AJRH online at <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118489045/home>

'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' - Now Available

The updated 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' has been mailed to friends of the Alliance this week. If you would like a copy join friends now.

A membership form is available on the friends page at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>

Follow us on twitter

Follow the NRHA on twitter at <http://twitter.com/NRHAAlliance> or from the front page of our website.

11th National Rural Health Conference

Set aside the date now: in Perth, 13-16 March 2011.

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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 9th 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

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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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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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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>

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) or it can be accessed on the website of the National Rural Health Alliance (<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>).

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Connecting young people living with a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability and their families

Living with a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability has a huge impact on the whole family - young people, siblings and parents can often experience social isolation and feel disconnected from support networks. Often it feels like there is no one who understands what it's like and that there is no one to share experiences with. These impacts can often be compounded by geographical isolation experienced by people in regional and rural Australia who can find it even more difficult to access support.

Livewire (<http://www.livewire.org.au>) is a subsidiary of the Starlight Children's Foundation supported by the Federal Government's Clever Networks program. Livewire was developed to facilitate support and connection between people affected by a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability.

Livewire provides three free and safe online communities for each family member affected by a serious illness or disability. Each community is a place where members can make friends, chat, gain support and share experiences with other people who understand what they are going through.

Livewire can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection, allowing people from all over Australia including those in regional or rural areas, to join a network of people who understand.

Livewire Members is a free, safe and fun online community designed especially for young people, aged over 10 and under 21, living with a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability. It's a place where they can hang out, connect, share experiences, creatively express themselves and know that they are not alone.

Livewire Siblings is an online community for young people, aged over 10 and under 21, who have a brother or sister living with a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability. It's a place where young siblings can go to meet other siblings and share experiences with people who understand what they are going through.

Livewire Parents is an online community for parents and carers of a person with a serious illness, chronic health condition or disability. It's a place where parents and carers can connect in a supportive and understanding environment.

If you know someone who would benefit from being a member of Livewire, all they have to do is:

- * Go to <http://www.livewire.org.au> and click on the 'Join Livewire' button; or
- * Contact the Livewire Support Team on (02) 8425 5971 or member.services@livewire.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

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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Aboriginal Health Workers formally acknowledged

Mr Justin Mohamed the Chair of NACCHO says Aboriginal Health Workers have been formally acknowledged as a profession with the launch of their new national association by the Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon in Ceduna at the Koonibba Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. Mr Mohamed said "Aboriginal Health Workers are an essential part of clinical services in the over 150 Aboriginal community controlled medical services as well as in mainstream health services".

The NACCHO statement is at <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/10-01-29%20Aboriginal%20Health%20Workers%20formally%20acknowledged%20Media%20Release.pdf>

NACCHO's submission to the Health Workforce Principals Committee (HWPC) advocating National Regulation and Accreditation of Aboriginal Health Workers is at <http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/NACCHO%20Submission%20to%20the%20HWPC%20re%20National%20Reg%20&%20Acce%20for%20AHWs.pdf>

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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 and <http://www.lifeline.org.au>

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Rural Health Minister drops into north-west Queensland to talk health reform
National priorities and options for health reform were on the agenda when the Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, met with local health professionals in Mount Isa and Cloncurry, Queensland.
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws002.htm>

National Grants to Get City Doctors Working in the Bush
Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon and Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon launched a national program that will offer emergency training for up to 150 urban GP's in exchange for their undertaking a locum placement in a rural or regional areas.
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws004.htm>

Rural Health Minister Visits Regional South Australia to Consider Health Reform
The Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, met with local health professionals in Ceduna, South Australia, to consult on the national priorities and options for health reform.
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws006.htm>

Aboriginal Health Workers Get a Peak National Body
The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, travelled to Ceduna in South Australia to launch a peak national body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws005.htm>

Report on Indigenous progress
The Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin, welcomed the release of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma's final *Social Justice Report*.
http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/report_indigenous_progress_23jan2010.htm

Commissioner Calma's final Social Justice and Native Title reports point to optimistic future
A marked shift in the Indigenous policy landscape since the National Apology to the Stolen Generations continues to gain momentum and signals a more inclusive and promising future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma

said in presenting his sixth and final Social Justice and Native Title Reports.
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2010/3_10.html

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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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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

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

OSU-CHS Center for Rural Health

Oklahoma State University Center for Rural Health is Oklahoma's leader in rural medical education, rural health research, and rural health policy advocacy
<http://ruralhealth.okstate.edu/>

Irish Rural Health

The Irish Rural Doctor's Group; Irish Institute of Rural Health Ltd; WONCA and Rural Satellite Conference.
<http://www.rural-health.net/>

Rural Health - South Dakota Department of Health

Our mission is to improve the delivery of health services to rural and medical underserved communities, emphasizing access.
<http://www.ruralhealth.sd.gov/>

Georgia Rural Health Association

Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is the oldest state rural health association in the country.
<http://grhainfo.org/>

National Rural Health Association-Homepage

The NRHA answers the call for rural health assistance in many forms.
<http://199.237.254.34/>

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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/>)

Body to represent Indigenous health workers

A national body has been launched to support Australia's 1600 Indigenous health workers. The Federal Government has given \$1.2 million over three years to set up the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201001/s2805025.htm>

Scheme to offer city GPs rural training

A rural doctors' lobby group says a program to increase the number of locums in regional centres will help ease the shortage of health professionals.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/27/2802500.htm>

Doctor calls for support for rural GP program

The former president of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia says a new incentive to lure city GPs to the bush must be given priority to ensure it's successful.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201001/s2803439.htm>

Emergency training grants to entice doctors to the bush

The Federal Government is trying to lure more city doctors to the bush by paying for their emergency training.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201001/s2802266.htm>

High hopes for bush doctor plans

The Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health spokesman says a national program to get more doctors to the bush is a good example of policy that could work.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/01/27/2802394.htm>

Flying podiatrists could be afoot in Queensland

The new chair of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Queensland says it's looking at better ways to deliver primary health care services to remote communities.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201001/s2800268.htm>

Indigenous patients in limbo over dialysis row

South Australian Aborigines are travelling hundreds of kilometres away from their communities for renal dialysis because of an impasse between the South Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/02/06/2812172.htm>

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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.

getregional.com.au

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RDAА NEWS

Rural doctors call for urgent solutions in 2010 budget submission

2 February 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Federal%20budget%20submission%202010-11%20--%20February%202010.pdf

RDAА Budget Submission 2010-11

2 February 2010

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Submission%20RDAА%202010-11%20budget%2029%20Jan%202010.pdf

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Health and homelands: good value for money?

As others previously have established beyond reasonable doubt, there are positive health benefits from homelands living. Current policy statements by governments regarding centralization of services (and inevitably populations) are a threat to this improved health and, in the current parlance surrounding Aboriginal health, risk widening the health gap rather than closing it.

Compiling this report has involved examining in some detail the evidence that exists on the benefits in particular but also the costs of homelands living. There is solid evidence on the health benefits of the homelands. The evidence on the costs of the homelands is not as solid but it does suggest that they are not large and may even involve cost savings to governments. Strangely too the extent to which equity figures as a consideration in debating the homelands is largely absent. The paper argues that it ought not to be.

Research for this report has unearthed no evidence to support those current government policies which threaten the existence of the homelands movement. An interim moratorium on policy action on the homelands is proposed until findings are available from the sorts of studies suggested in this report. Only then, once good evidence in a cost benefit framework is available, ought policy decisions be made about the future of the homelands movement.

http://www.gavinmooney.com/images/pdf_uploads/health%20and%20homelands.pdf

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA

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

Socio-Demographic factors put rural women at higher risk of obesity

Living in rural areas does not of itself put socio-economically disadvantaged rural women and children at higher risk of overweight and obesity, according to the authors of a study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Rather, higher levels of obesity among women in rural areas may be attributed to individual-level socio-demographic characteristics more common in this group, such as higher age,

lower levels of education, being Australian-born, being married and having more children, the study suggests.

Dr Verity Cleland, from the Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research at Deakin University, Melbourne, and her co-authors compared the weight status of women of childbearing age and their children living in socio-economically disadvantaged rural and urban areas of Victoria.

<http://www.ama.com.au/node/5305>

Rapid Online Publication

ASID/TSANZ guidelines: treatment and prevention of H1N1 influenza 09 (human swine influenza) with antiviral agents - Updated 13 August 2009

Current issue: 1 February 2010

From the Editor's Desk: Where have all the flowers gone?

Editorials

The future of the physician assistant movement

Antibiotic prophylaxis for cardiac surgery - are we getting it right?

Postcard from New York - Medical identity fraud in the United States: could it happen here?

Research

Reducing drowning deaths: the continued challenge of immersion fatalities in Australia

Dyslipidaemia in rural Australia: prevalence, awareness, and adherence to treatment guidelines in the Greater Green Triangle Risk Factor Study

Pneumonia risk stratification in tropical Australia: does the SMART-COP score apply?

Urban-rural comparison of weight status among women and children living in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Health Care - Antibiotic prophylaxis for cardiac surgery in Australia

Clinical Update - Current concepts in the management of Parkinson disease

Medical Education - Are patients willing participants in the new wave of community-based medical education in regional and rural Australia?

For Debate - The new "Indigenous health" incentive payment: issues and challenges

Medicine and the Community - Depressive symptoms in older male Italian immigrants in Australia: the Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

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

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

Letters

Regressing metastatic melanoma and vitiligo-like depigmentation in an Indigenous Australian

Can prior vaccinations against certain infections confer protection against developing melanoma?

Desmoplastic small round cell tumour: an unusual presentation of an unusual tumour

Hydroxycut hepatotoxicity

Vertebroplasty appears no better than placebo for painful osteoporotic spinal fractures, and has potential to cause harm

The private hospital: a potential surgical training ground

Our public health system: an accident waiting to happen?

Book Review - Living with bipolar. A guide to understanding and managing the disorder

Correction - Cough disorder: an allegory on DSM-IV

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ARTICLE IN 'RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH'

'Reaching agreement for an Aboriginal e-health research agenda: the Aboriginal telehealth knowledge circle consensus method'

Developing e-health agendas have become commonplace, although a description of the process is not often readily available. This unique article discusses in detail the development of an Aboriginal e-health agenda based on Canadian Aboriginal culture, values and approaches to consensus. It has something to offer all researchers concerned with cultural safety.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1299>

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From: Elisia Dowling edowling@parks.vic.gov.au
Subject: International *Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress*

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.indigservicedelivery.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

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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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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, 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 (do not "reply" to this email - send contributions to grovesc@winshop.com.au). Contributions received by the Friday of publication will be included in the e-forum.

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. As such, the Alliance

does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the views of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au

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

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Media Release
2 February 2010
Budget must address need for rural health hubs

The Executive Director of the National Rural Health Alliance, Gordon Gregory, has called on the Rudd Government to make substantial new health investment on two key fronts in the 2010-11 Budget.

"Major investments are needed in selected regional centres so that they become comprehensive service hubs, with additional resource made available for small towns of up to 12,000 people. The result would be better access to integrated health care services at a regional level, and to primary and aged care in smaller towns," Mr Gregory said.

"We urge the government to confidently select and build the health service capacity of key places in rural, regional and remote areas, just as they have done through superclinics - mainly in outer metropolitan areas. We are not talking about building the same health service model as with the superclinics, but using the same process of selective investment.

"People in rural and remote areas need a central service within their community of interest which is well enough staffed, and has sufficient physical resources, to provide comprehensive regional care by reaching out to smaller communities," he said.

"Substantial new resources are required, particularly given the difficulty of attracting health professionals to rural and remote areas. The alternative is to leave people in those areas with poorer health and poorer access to services, which is simply not acceptable."

The Alliance's 2010 Budget Submission also proposes direct Commonwealth investment in an improved patients' assisted travel scheme, and particular measures to improve the oral health workforce and maternity services in the bush.

It also proposes a dedicated rural/remote health research stream and a 'Broadband for all' initiative to ensure equal IT access for those who cannot be serviced by fibre-to-the-home or office.

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Media Release
28 January 2010
***Crikey* is right: the real priorities in health are outside the cities**

Writing in *Crikey* yesterday, Bernard Keane argued that the real priorities in health are mainly outside cities. He is right - a man born in a disadvantaged part of western New South

Wales can expect to live about 11 years less than one born in an affluent Sydney suburb.

Seventy per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live outside the capital cities and their life expectancy is 13 to 17 years less than it is for Australia's non-Indigenous peoples.

Those in rural and remote areas are, in aggregate, both older and poorer while a greater proportion have a disability compared with their major city cousins. People in non-metropolitan areas also experience more health risk factors such as obesity, smoking and, perhaps surprisingly, the adverse effects of a sedentary lifestyle.

Access to health services is much poorer in rural and remote areas, with serious shortages of doctors, dentists, nurses, allied health professionals such as podiatrists and experienced managers.

The National Rural Health Alliance welcomes the fact that Prime Minister Rudd has promised 2010 will be a year of major health reform. The estimated seven million people living in rural and remote areas will support any reform aimed at improving their current level of health and the health services to which they have access.

However, the Alliance also agrees with writer Bernard Keane that health reform must not default back to "who funds hospitals". The more important question is how we can provide people in regional communities with better health services.

There are some clear improvements that can and should be made. No need to wait for a Grand Plan on health reform - early investment can start with the 2010-11 Budget.
