

NRHA eforum 10 August 2007

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 10 August 2007

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RURAL DELEGATION TO PUSH DEMANDS FOR HEALTH REFORM

The Alliance is seeking specific commitments from political parties in support of rural health objectives. Specifically:

1. a Productivity Commission Inquiry into the future sustainability of rural and remote communities;
2. clear definition of the roles of the Commonwealth and States in the health sector, through a national health policy and action plan;
3. measures that will be introduced to address the acute and worsening maldistribution of health professionals in rural areas;
4. a clear commitment to transforming the current Northern Territory Indigenous health initiative into long term national programs involving consultation with community and Aboriginal leaders; and
5. the provision of oral and dental health services to all rural Australians.

The NRHA will develop a scorecard and conduct an evaluation of where the parties stand on these issues, with the objective of providing it to rural Australians at an appropriate time ahead of the upcoming Federal Election. The NRHA statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/media%20release%208%20aug%202007.pdf>

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CHRONIC PAIN: THE INVISIBLE EPIDEMIC

Rural Health Education Foundation satellite broadcast Tuesday 14th August 2007 8pm EST repeated Friday 17th August 12:30pm EST

This is a repeat program from January 2006 Funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing The nature and management of chronic pain differs from

acute pain, and it is important that that any approach takes a management focus rather than a curative focus - there is no 'cure' for chronic pain. Stigma, anxiety and depression add to the issues of chronic pain experienced by an individual. Equally, for the family of a chronic pain sufferer the experience can be all consuming. This program will explore these issues and examine the management approach to chronic pain. Specific program information can be found by clicking <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/601/601.html>

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HEALTH REFORM SUMMIT CALLS FOR NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

The 43 member organisations of the Australian Health Care Reform Alliance (AHCRA), representing more than 500,000 health consumers and health sector workers country wide, have called for the formation of a National Health Reform Council (NHRC) to devise and monitor the implementation of a national health policy in a whole-of-government approach to health.

In a strongly worded communiqué issued at the end of a two-day Summit, AHCRA called for the establishment of a National Health Commission and the pooling of Commonwealth and State health dollars to ensure flexible and multi-disciplinary care at the community level.

The Communique is available at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/FINALCommunique010807.pdf>

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MERSEY HOSPITAL

In the latest development, the Australian Government has said that it is keen to provide a detailed plan for the Mersey Hospital and its integration with health services in the North-West but can only do this effectively with access to information held by the State Government. The statement by Health Minister Tony Abbott is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-ta-abb096.htm>

The Government's initial announcement is at http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media_Release24472.cfm

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia welcomed the Federal Government's recognition that hospitals in the bush need help, describing the intervention to preserve services at the Mersey hospital facility in Devonport as a "start", but claiming that there are too many other services in Tasmania and rural mainland Australia at risk of closing and being downgraded.

The RDAA statement is at http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20MEDIA%20RELEASE_010807.doc

Similarly, the AMA has welcomed the Federal Government's intervention to fund services at Tasmania's Mersey Hospital but would now like to see this initiative extended to all poorly resourced rural, regional and remote hospitals around Australia. "There are over 550 hospitals in regional, rural and remote areas in all the States and Territories and many would be in the same or an even worse position than Mersey," AMA President Dr Capolingua said. The AMA

statement is at <http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-75N5F9>

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9th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE - PROCEEDINGS OUT NOW!

7 - 10 March 2007, Albury, New South Wales

Those unable to attend the 9th National Rural Health Conference in Albury (7-10 March 2007) should take heart. The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) has comprehensively updated its website by adding post-Conference information to keep you informed about the state of health in Australia's rural and remote areas.

For instance a Conference Communique highlights the two burning issues that remain even after 17 years of fruitful discussion - the lower rate of Indigenous life expectancy and the insufficient focus within national research programs on rural and remote health and wellbeing.

The NRHA invites you to download the Communique at a keystroke by visiting <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/conferences/?IntCatId=9> and clicking on the Visit the Conference hotlink.

The revised website also contains a downloadable copy of the 18 priority recommendations covering matters such as Indigenous health, arts-in-health, the health workforce and research to help rural communities cope with the health and social effects of the drought.

A full set of 250 Conference recommendations is also available. They provide a snapshot of current thinking on rural and remote health issues identified by delegates in March 2007 under the theme Standing up for Rural Health: Learning from the past - Action for the future.

But wait there's more...

The new-look site includes colour headshots of each of the 20 keynote speakers, including transcripts of what they said and audio accounts that allow you to better gauge how each one was delivered.

The quality lineup includes the keynote address of Federal Health Minister, Tony Abbott, as well as Senator Kate Lundy, the Shadow Minister for Health Promotion. Other guest speakers included Rhonda Galbally, Steve Clark, Philip Davies and John Menadue, among others.

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RURAL DOCTORS ELECTION STATEMENT

The RDAA calls on all parties contesting the federal election to commit to the establishment of a Rural Health Obligation mandating the standards of access and services which rural Australians can expect. Key initiatives sought include:

- * Establishment of standards of access and services which form a Rural Health Obligation
- * Support for training of rural doctors including the provision of infrastructure to support the placement of students, junior doctors (interns) and rural doctors undertaking vocation training

in practices, and increased support for doctors to teach and supervise

- * Implementation of a Rural Isolation Payment
- * Implementation of a rural practice loading on the MBS for doctors who provide obstetric, surgical, anaesthetic, or emergency on-call service in rural communities

The RDAA's media release is at

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Election%20Position%20Statement%20Release%206%20aug%202007.pdf and the full election statement is at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20Federal%20Election%20Position%20Statement%207%20Aug%202007.pdf

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

- * Analysis to synergy: Why coordination of rural initiatives at metropolitan universities is important and timely
- * Harnessing a University to address rural health workforce shortages in Australia
- * Acute rheumatic fever: Adherence to secondary prophylaxis and follow up of Indigenous patients in the Katherine region of the Northern Territory
- * Evidence-based use of medications in patients with coronary artery disease in a rural Australian community
- * Rural adolescents experiencing an urban transition
- * Detecting depression in the aged: Is there concordance between screening tools and the perceptions of nursing home staff and residents? A pilot study in a rural aged care facility
- * Rural public dental practice in Australia: Perspectives of Tasmanian government-employed dentists
- * 'I don't want to be in that big city; this is my country here': Research findings on Aboriginal peoples' preference to die at home
- * Ocular health status of rural dwellers in south-western Nigeria
- * Short Reports
- * Grazings
- * From the Journal Associates

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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, and regular issues of PARTYline newsletter. 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

Partyline Edition 30 includes:

- * highlights from the 9th National Rural Health Conference, including reviews of keynote addresses, in-depth discussion of health reform, the role of the arts in achieving good health, impressions from delegates, student voices, policy impact of recommendations, rural health winners, and pictorial highlights
- * equal health within a generation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- * responses to Budget 2007-08
- * writing for publication
- * telling your rural health story
- * rural health news
- * resources
- * dates for your calendar.

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SELECTED CHRONIC CONDITIONS AMONG ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

In 2004-05, after adjusting for differences in the age structure of the populations, Indigenous people were three times more likely than non-Indigenous people to have diabetes and more than ten times as likely to have kidney disease. An article in the ABS Social Trends 2007 publication explores the prevalence, hospitalisation and mortality rates for Indigenous people who reported diabetes, cardiovascular disease or kidney disease. It also compares the self-assessed health status of Indigenous people with these conditions to those who did not have these conditions. The article is available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/5AB12BE9F12ABBC7CA25732C002082BD?opendocument>

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

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NEW ARTICLES IN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

'What are the effects of distance management on the retention of remote area nurses in Australia?'

One of the characteristics of working in remote locations is that your manager may live and work a long distance from you in the regional 'centre'. This article from the Northern Territory, Australia, examines how these arrangements may be affecting the retention of remote area nurses.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=652>

'Impact of case management on rural women's quality of life and substance use'

Providing effective services to women with drug dependence is challenging in any environment but particularly difficult in rural areas. This article from northern NSW describes a program of case management that resulted in measurable improvements in women's well-being. It is a great example of good program design and implementation combined with rigorous outcome evaluation.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=710>

'Pharmacists' views on Indigenous health: is there more that can be done?'

Addressing the high rates of chronic disease among Indigenous people requires significant changes in normal practice for health professionals accustomed to caring for non-Indigenous clients. This study from New South Wales, Australia, explored community pharmacists' understandings and views about information and service needs of Indigenous people in their towns. Such research is a vital step towards improving the capacity of mainstream health services to provide accessible and culturally secure care.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=743>

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Rural Australia 'hit hard by obesity'

(Extract from Farmonline article at

http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=44305)

The obesity epidemic is hitting rural Australia hard, according to new reports showing more than two thirds of the population is overweight or obese. New statistics show three quarters of men are overweight, with healthy-weight people in a minority. And among rural women, the rate was 64pc, according to the study by Melbourne researchers published in the Medical Journal of Australia.

The study the article refers to is at

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/187_03_060807/jan10268_fm.html

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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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PLANNING FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH IN THE LONG TERM

The epidemic of disease in Australia's Indigenous people represents a serious failure of public policy. Wendy Hoy is at the forefront of documenting the large gap in health between the Indigenous and the general population. In an article available at http://www.brisinst.org.au/resources/hoy_wendy_indigenous_health.html she outlines a number of key principles and policies that are needed to address the problems at a fundamental level.

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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>)

ALICE SPRINGS DECLARED A DRY ZONE (PM: 01/08/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2007/s1994422.htm>

GOVT TAKES OVER TASMANIAN HOSPITAL (Lateline: 01/08/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2007/s1994450.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2007/s1994448.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s1994418.htm>

Howard urged to consult Aboriginal leaders

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/03/1996573.htm>

Obesity 'as bad in the bush'

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/05/1997029.htm>

PROSPECT OF HOSPITAL TAKEOVER STRIKES POPULAR CHORD (7.30 Report: 08/08/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2007/s2000193.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2007/s1999003.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2007/s1996380.htm>

NEW ALCOHOL LAWS FOR KATHERINE IN NT (AM: 06/08/2007)

<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2007/s1997313.htm>

Govt urged to scrap NT land takeovers
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/10/2002346.htm>

Medical group sees benefits of NT intervention
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/10/2002345.htm>

AMA, doctors slam Govt over Mersey takeover
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/11/2002433.htm>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA
(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

Rapid online publication, 1 August 2007
Interventions to halt child abuse in Aboriginal communities

Current Issue:

- From the Editor's Desk: Australians deserve better than this
- Human embryonic stem cells leap the barrier
- How should stable coronary artery disease be managed in the modern era?
- Management of migraine in Australian general practice
- Overweight, obesity and metabolic syndrome in rural southeastern Australia
- Discordance between level of risk and intensity of evidence-based treatment in patients with acute coronary syndromes
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in general practice: a decision-making dilemma
- A national survey of medical morning handover report in Australian hospitals
- Will Australian rural clinical schools be an effective workforce strategy? Early indications of their positive effect on intern choice and rural career interest
- Organ donation after cardiac death: legal and ethical justifications for antemortem interventions
- Early medical abortion in Cairns, Queensland: July 2006 - April 2007
- The effect of Web 2.0 on the future of medical practice and education: Darwokinian evolution or folksonomic revolution?
- "There will be no more!": the legacy of the Toowong breast cancer cluster
- Remaining measles challenges in Australia
- Personal carbon trading: a potential "stealth intervention" for obesity reduction?
- Liver transplantation in Jehovah's Witness patients in Australasia

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL HEALTH

A one day seminar on the challenge of climate change for health in rural and regional Victoria. What will the impact of climate change be on the well-being of people in rural and regional Victoria? How should this be affecting future policy and research agendas? These questions will be addressed by experts from universities, government and community organisations in this one day seminar to be opened by the Honourable Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health. Wednesday August 22 8:30am-5:00pm Graduate House The University

of Melbourne Presented by the Climate Adaptation Science and Policy Initiative (CASPI) and the Menzies Foundation. To register go to <http://www.caspi.unimelb.edu.au> or call 8344 4708.

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From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk
Subject: Update on Rural Critical Care Conference

The 2007 Rural Critical Care Conference is taking place in Ballina NSW, 24 - 25 August. Further info is available on the conference website <http://www.ruralcriticalcare.asn.au>

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From: Joy Burch
Subject: 2007 Mount Isa Remote Health Conference 24-26 August 2007

Every two years Mount Isa hosts a conference aimed at bringing together people with an interest in all aspects of health in remote Australia. Previous events in 2003 and 2005 were immensely successful with attendees finding the presentations 'focussed and relevant' and many going on to indicate their willingness to attend again.

The purpose of this year's event is to provide a forum for information exchange and debate about issues relevant to remote health with a particular focus on the following themes:

- * Clinical practice in remote areas;
- * Population Health including Indigenous health;
- * Workforce supply, education and training;
- * Research outcomes such as innovation in health service delivery.

This conference is convened by the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including, Queensland Health, the Royal Flying Doctors Service, James Cook University, Oxfam, North and West Queensland Primary Health Care and the Mount Isa City Council. Through involvement of such a wide range of remote health organisations the multidisciplinary nature of this conference is assured.

Once again the Mount Isa Remote Health Conference promises to be a fantastic event and, through its small size and limited registrations, represents a great opportunity to establish networks with other remote health professionals.

Details are available at <http://micrrh.jcu.edu.au/conferences-workshops/remotely-interested/>

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web: <http://www.arhen.org.au>

journal: <http://www.rrh.org.au>

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From: Nicky Reavell
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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11th Annual Chronic Diseases Network Conference Learning for Living"
30th & 31st August 2007, Darwin

The 11th Annual Chronic Diseases Network Conference is being held in Darwin at the Holiday Inn Esplanade on 30th & 31st August 2007.

The CDN conferences have a loyal following of Aboriginal Health Workers, Remote Area Nurses, District Medical Officers, GP's, Administrators, Researchers and Policy Makers. We anticipate between 250-300 delegates from across the NT and interstate. Information from: Christine Connors The Best Conference & Events Company
Rachael McGuin GPO Box 2541
Marie Hodsdon Phone: 08 8981 1875
Sharon Manhire Fax: 08 8941 2815
Joanne Blayney Email: info@thebestevents.com.au

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ARRWAG INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKFORCE FORUM ON 31 AUGUST 2007

Australian Rural and Remote Workforce Agencies Group
2007 National Policy Forum on Indigenous Health Workforce Issues
FREMANTLE, WA, 31 AUGUST 2007

Contact:
Ph: 03 9662 2625
Fax: 03 9662 4830
Email: forum@arrwag.com.au

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

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3rd Annual Australian Nurse Practitioner Association Conference
21-22 September 2007
Sheraton Hotel, Perth, WA
For more information, visit <http://www.dcconferences.com.au/anpa07>

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THE LIME CONNECTION II "CULTURES ACROSS THE INDIGENOUS HEALTH SPECTRUM: ACHIEVING BETTER OUTCOMES"

The Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) and the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) announces The LIME Connection II conference, held in Sydney from Sunday 23rd to Tuesday 25th September, 2007.

Leaders in the field of Indigenous medical education and practice will present their experiences and share innovative approaches through a mix of keynote addresses, oral and poster presentations, group discussions and a public lecture. Topics will include:

- * reviewing medical schools' progress towards implementing the curriculum framework and Indigenous student initiatives
- * learning and sharing with other health science disciplines, postgraduate medical education bodies, medical colleges and divisions
- * defining cultural safety in Australian health and medical education
- * looking toward the future to examine what's possible and where we go from here

For further information, please visit the LIME Connection II web site at <http://www.limenetwork.net.au/conference/welcome>

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From: Michael Blair
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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ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Help fight poverty and hardship in Australia and overseas. Organise an activity during the Week - 14-20 October 2007 - big or small, local or national. FOR INFO & IDEAS, see <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au> OR CONTACT US AT 1300 797 290; or apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

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Climate Change and Human Health Conference
Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 October 2007
Park Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne, Australia
<http://www.healthclimate2007.com>

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

Details are at <http://www.nswrahc.com>.

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ACRRM AGM and Conference - Friday 26 October to Sunday 28 October

ACRRM will hold its AGM in NSW on the weekend of 26-28 October 2007. A program of educational activities will also be held for practitioners, registrars and students. Information at

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

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UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, SCHOOL OF RURAL HEALTH, 2007 RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The University of Melbourne, School of Rural Health, invites you to participate in the 3rd Annual Shepparton Research Conference on Tuesday 27th November 2007 from 9am to 5pm.

The research conference, entitled: "Moving Forward: Rural Research & Knowledge Transfer" is intended for individuals and organisations with an interest in rural health, including general practice, primary health care, integrated care and population health, research and evaluation. Registrations open 2 July 2007. Delegates can register online by accessing the School of Rural health website <http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au> and clicking on the conference link after that date. A hardcopy of the registration pack can be obtained by emailing the Conference Secretariat.

The School of Rural Health welcomes your participation with papers, posters and other presentations at this forthcoming conference. The call for Abstracts is now open and must be submitted via email to the Conference Secretariat by close of business Monday 3rd September, 2007. Please circulate to colleagues interested in research.

Pauline Venn Conference Secretariat pvenn@unimelb.edu.au Ph: 03 5823 4532

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From: Jane Howorth - ECC Information Desk
Subject: NSW Rural Mental Health Conference

This year's NSW Rural Mental Health Conference is taking place in Batemans Bay, 3 - 5 December 2007, hosted by the Greater Southern Area Health Service. Further information on the conference website: <http://www.rmhconference.com> or by contacting info@eastcoastconferences.com.au, tel 02 6650 9800.

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From: Mcalpin, Susan
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 to register your interest in keeping informed as soon as possible.

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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From: Emma Grayson
Subject: 10th International Paediatric and Child Health Nursing Conference

The 10th International Paediatric and Child Health Nursing Conference is to be held at the Holiday Inn Esplanade and Darwin Entertainment Centre, Northern Territory, from Wednesday, 30 April to Friday, 2 May 2008. The conference is being hosted by the Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses. The conference is expected to attract between 200 and 400 delegates from across Australia and abroad.

Through the implementation of the theme "Crossing barriers", this conference aims to illustrate that barriers can and must be crossed to improve health outcomes for children and young people. The conference aims are: to advance paediatric and child health nursing's contribution to health care and facilitate the dissemination of evidence highlighting effective nursing interventions to arise the profile of the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration to identify future directions for paediatric and child health nursing to provide a forum that stimulates debate and collegiality.

For more information, to register your expression of interest or to download the call for abstracts, please visit the conference website at <http://www.ipchnconference.com.au> or by contacting the conference secretariat via email at info@ipchnconference.com.au or by telephone +61 7 3858 5503.

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POPULATION HEALTH CONGRESS 2008
A Global World - Practical action for health and Well-being

Come to Brisbane and join in Australia's population health event of the decade. Four organisations are working together to provide a line-up of international and national speakers

that promises to be excellent.

The Population health Congress 2008 will be held on July 7-9 in the Brisbane Convention and exhibition Centre. Regular updates on Congress 2008 will be available at <http://www.populationhealthcongress.org.au> - log on to register your interest.

Enquiries:
Conference Coordinators
PO Box 139
Calve Il ACt 2905
Ph (02) 6292 9000
congress2008@confco.com.au

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

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