

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 19 December 2008

In this issue:

- * December 2008 E-news from the NRHA
- * Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) conference
- * 10th National Rural Health Conference
- * New inquiry on remote community stores in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities
- * RDAA Statement
- * RHEF Upcoming Programs
- * AIHW Reports
- * Bush facing 'crippling' nurse shortage: report
- * RAMUS Scholarships - Applications for 2009 are now open
- * Income Inequality in Australia: OECD
- * Expansion of Indigenous Child and Maternal Health Services
- * New Indigenous Campaign to focus on Healthy Living
- * Review of Health technology assessment processes
- * Rural Health on the ABC
- * Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06
- * Articles in "Rural and Remote Health"
- * Contribution and subscription information and disclaimer

+++++

December 2008 E-news from the NRHA

10th Conference: Registrations NOW OPEN

Registrations are now open for the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns, 17-20 May 2009. You can go to the Conference Website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> to view the program and register online or download a hardcopy registration form.

Key policy work

The Alliance is currently preparing a submission (due 9 January) to the National Preventative Health Taskforce.

We are also providing the Department of Health and Ageing with proposals about systems for classifying "rurality" (or remoteness) and health need. The Department is reviewing the structure and use of rurality and remoteness classifications.

In the new year the Alliance will be making submissions to the Government on the development of a National Primary Health Care Strategy (end February) and we note Minister Roxon's invitation to submit views on the health needs of Australian men and the possibility of a new National Men's Health Policy. On this as on other matters the Alliance's interest will be in identifying issues of particular relevance in rural and remote areas.

Work continues at the Alliance on a position on the sustainability of small rural and remote communities.

Like many others, the Alliance is eagerly awaiting the interim report from the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, due to be made public in the new year. We

remain in touch with the Office of Rural Health over its work to review the 65 or so targeted rural and remote health programs.

The Alliance's goal of a national plan for rural and remote Australia and for a national rural health plan will be informed by the outcomes of these big picture health reforms in the next six to eight months.

PATS remains an important issue for follow-up action.

The Alliance has recently joined with the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and the Public Health Association of Australia in promoting retention of the EPC program for oral and dental health in a form which would allow for the establishment of a new Commonwealth Dental Health Program.

Australian Journal of Rural Health - December issue

Mental health is a prominent theme in the December issue. Deputy Editor David Perkins' editorial draws on an original article in the issue which surveys general practitioners' management of patients with mental health conditions in rural north-western New South Wales. Other articles examine farm suicides in South Australia and the mental health of farmers in Southern Queensland. In February 2009 there will be a special thematic issue of the AJRH on rural and remote health research.

RAMUS - Scholarships for rural students studying medicine - now open

The 2009 application round for the Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS) Scheme is open until 5pm on 19 January 2009. The Scheme is open to medical students from rural and remote areas who have a demonstrated financial need. RAMUS scholarship holders receive unbonded scholarships worth \$10,000 a year while completing a standard medical degree at their chosen university. Up to 115 scholarship places are available in 2009 - so not all applicants who are eligible will receive a scholarship. To access an online application form, or find further details about the RAMUS Scheme, go to <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Promote your organisation at the 10th Conference

Why not consider booking an Exhibition Booth or a spot for your flyer in the 10th Conference e-satchel? Booking forms are available on the Conference Website. For further information contact the Alliance's Conference team on (02) 6285 4660.

NRHA Survey

The Alliance is currently conducting a brief survey to find out the ways in which our website is used and how our contacts prefer to receive information from us. The survey can be found at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> - it takes 2-3 minutes and your assistance in completing it would be greatly appreciated.

Discounted registration for *friends* of the Alliance

Financial members of *friends* of the Alliance will be able to register for the 10th Conference at a discounted rate. Details of registration fees are on the Conference website. Membership of *friends* is for a calendar year and electronic Tax Invoices will be emailed shortly for your convenience. Alternatively you can download a membership form on the *friends* page of the Alliance's website and return it to us with your payment.

friends at the 10th - please donate something from your home town
friends who attend the 10th Conference are invited to contribute an item of produce or a souvenir from their home town or local area for a special hamper. All *friends* at the Conference will go into a draw for the hamper.

friends Photographic and Poetry Festival - start clicking/writing!
The successful *friends* photographic festival is returning to the 10th Conference and this time there will be a poetry competition as well. Keep an eye on the *friends* page of the Alliance's website for details.

Partyline

The December edition of Partyline is now available. It discusses some of the current government reviews and workforce initiatives related to health, and looks at future investment in rural health in the light of the current economic environment. Pat Anderson speaks candidly about making a difference in Aboriginal health and Justine Caines reflects on the current Maternity Services Review. There is also a beyondblue feature, NRHA news and letters and stories from readers. Partyline No. 34 is available in hard copy and online - go to <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>, then to Publications, then Partyline. To subscribe to Partyline, email your contact details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au

Have a good break

On behalf of Council and staff of the National Rural Health Alliance we hope you have a safe and peaceful holiday period. We look forward to working with you again in 2009.

+++++

From: Shane Barnes

Subject: Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) conference

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) is holding it's forthcoming conference titled "Direction in a time of change" in February 2009

19-20 February 2009

Jasper Hotel, Melbourne, Vic

For further information and to register visit: <http://www.vaada.info/>

If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact me

Shane Barnes

Conference Organiser

+++++

10th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

17-20 May 2009, Cairns, Qld

Bumper interest shows Cairns the place to be in '09

Over 400 abstracts have been received for the presentation of papers, posters and workshops at next year's 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns.

The number reflects the high level of national interest in the health of the people of rural and remote Australia.

on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or emailing atsia.reps@aph.gov.au.

+++++

RDAA STATEMENT

Rural doctors welcome Rudd Government initiatives
9 December 2008

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) has welcomed an announcement by Federal Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, that a review of the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS)-due to be finalised by March 2009-will slash red tape and make the business of running a medical practice simpler.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20doctors%20welcome%20Rudd%20Government%20initiatives%20--%20December%202008.pdf

+++++

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

December 2008 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Mental health academics in the university departments of rural health: Roles and contributions

Suicides on farms in South Australia, 1997-2001

Young driver restrictions: Does the evidence support them?

Cervical cancer risk factors and predictors of cervical dysplasia among women in south-west Nigeria

Mental health of farmers in Southern Queensland: Issues and support

Critical health infrastructure for refugee resettlement in rural Australia: Case study of four rural towns

Lung cancer: An exploration of patient and general practitioner perspectives on the realities of care in rural Western Australia

General practitioners' management of patients with mental health conditions: The views of

general practitioners working in rural north-western New South Wales
Expanding the role of paramedics in northern Queensland: An evaluation of population health training
A rural/urban comparison of the roles of the general practitioner in colorectal cancer management
Short Reports
Improving inpatient management of community-acquired pneumonia in remote northern Australia
Do patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease receive smoking cessation advice and interventions in rural Crete? Report from a medical audit study
Mothers' knowledge, beliefs and attitudes towards their obese and overweight children living in rural north-west of New South Wales
Doctor and physician assistant distribution in rural and remote Texas counties

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

Students and researchers keen to learn more about the changing facts surrounding Indigenous health are encouraged to consult the 2008 'virtual issue' of the prestigious *Australian Journal of Rural Health*. Freely available through the website <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr> readers can access 22 key reports published in the last decade covering some of the most pressing topics in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

+++++

RHEF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

(From <http://www.rhef.com.au/upcoming-programs/>)

Tue 27 Jan 2009 8.00 pm
901: A is for Asthma: Managing Asthma in Primary School Kids

Fri 30 Jan 2009 12.30 pm
901: A is for Asthma: Managing Asthma in Primary School Kids

Sun 1 Feb 2009 9.30 pm
607a: Start Strong

Fri 6 Feb 2009 7.30 pm
607a: Start Strong

Sun 8 Feb 2009 9.30 pm
607b: Grow Strong

Fri 13 Feb 2009 7.30 pm
607b: Grow Strong

Sun 15 Feb 2009 9.30 pm
606: Keep Safe

Tue 17 Feb 2009 8.00 pm
902: Stay Strong

Tue 17 Feb 2009 8.30 pm
903: Strong and Deadly

Fri 20 Feb 2009 12.30 pm
902: Stay Strong

Fri 20 Feb 2009 1.00 pm
903: Strong and Deadly

Fri 20 Feb 2009 7.30 pm
606: Keep Safe

Sun 22 Feb 2009 9.30 pm
710: Indigenous Mental Health: An Interview with Professor Ernest Hunter

Tue 24 Feb 2009 8.00 pm
904: Guidelines for the Treatment of Adults with Acute Stress Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Fri 27 Feb 2009 12.30 pm
904: Guidelines for the Treatment of Adults with Acute Stress Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Fri 27 Feb 2009 7.30 pm
710: Indigenous Mental Health: An Interview with Professor Ernest Hunter

Tue 10 Mar 2009 8.00 pm
905: Birthing in the Bush

Fri 13 Mar 2009 12.30 pm
905: Birthing in the Bush

Tue 17 Mar 2009 8.00 pm
906: The Health Workforce - An Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Fri 20 Mar 2009 12.30 pm
906: The Health Workforce - An Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Tue 28 Apr 2009 8.00 pm
907: A program on Autism

Fri 1 May 2009 12.30 pm
907: A program on Autism

Tue 9 Jun 2009 8.00 pm
909: Women in General Practice

Fri 12 Jun 2009 12.30 pm
909: Women in General Practice

+++++

AIHW REPORTS

Growing number of cancer cases will have major impact on health system

The number of new cancer cases diagnosed in Australia each year passed the 100,000 mark for the first time in 2005 and the number of new cases in 2008 is estimated to be over 108,000.

Media statement at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20081219.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10607>

Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check initiative:

Preliminary results from the Child Health Check and follow-up data collections

The prevalence of 25 health conditions in children who had CHCs are summarised below.

* Three in four (75% or 6,760) children were identified as living in a household with a smoker

* Seventy-three per cent (483) of children aged less than 1 year were at risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) due to bed sharing, while 35% (229) were at risk due to soft sleeping surfaces and loose bedding

* Forty-three per cent (3,883) of children had at least one type of oral health condition. In particular, 40% (3,618) of children were reported to have untreated caries

* Thirty-eight per cent (3,406) of children had a reported history of recurrent chest infection

* One in three (30% or 2,702) children was reported to have ear disease

* Thirty-one per cent (2,753) of children had at least one type of skin condition. In particular, 10% (895) of children were reported to have skin sores (four or more) and 8% (714) of children had scabies

* Fifteen per cent (1,387) of children were found to have anaemia

* Sixteen per cent (1,409) of children were due for immunisations

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10700>

Aussies tough on alcohol, smoking, drugs

The majority of Australians support policies aimed at reducing alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use, and are also making efforts to kick their own drug habits.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20081218.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10674>

Arthritis and osteoporosis affect over 3 million Australians

Arthritis and osteoporosis are among the most common long term chronic health problems in Australia, affecting 1 in 6 Australians

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20081217.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10384>

More info needed on what happens in GP clinics

A report today released by the AIHW sets out the gold standard for general practice reporting on primary health care.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20081210.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10646>

More births to older mother trend still continuing

The average age of mothers giving birth in Australia is just under 30 years of age, and the average age of first-time mothers is around 28 years, according to the 16th annual report on pregnancy and childbirth in Australia

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20081209.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10634>

Oral health of adults in the public dental sector

This report presents findings from adult patients receiving public dental care. Patients eligible for public dental care are primarily holders of government entitlement cards.

Publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10694>

+++++

The next edition of Partyline, the Newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance is now available. It scrutinises the current range of government reviews and workforce initiatives and looks at future investment in rural health in the light of the current economic environment. Pat Anderson speaks candidly about making a difference in Aboriginal health and Justine Caines reflects on the current Maternity Services Review. There is a focus on the 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns next year, a beyondblue feature, NRHA news and letters and stories from readers.

Partyline No. 34 is available in hard copy and online - go to <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>, then to Publications, then Partyline.

If you would like to subscribe to Partyline please email your contact details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au Subscription is free.

+++++

Join *friends* of the Alliance now for 2009 and get discounted registration for the 10th Conference in Cairns in May. People who pay the *friends* fee after 1 September are members for the whole of the following calendar year. *friends* members will also receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2009' (due out in late 2009), connection with the Alliance's policy work and regular issues of the *Partyline* newsletter.

Above all, membership of *friends* gives you the opportunity to support the Alliance and its work.

The *friends* Advisory Committee is: Alicia Eaton (Vic), John Ferguson (Qld), Jane Fisher (ACT), Janet Fletcher (NT), Pauline Glover (SA), Nigel Jefford (WA), Marie Lally (SA), Suzanne Little (Qld), Irene Mills (WA), Beth Smith (TAS), Janie Smith (NSW), Janet Struber (NT), David Templeman (ACT), David Thompson (Vic) and Robin Toohey (NSW). Members of the Committee are soon to elect a Chairperson, who will be a Member of the NRHA Council.

+++++

BUSH FACING 'CRIPPLING' NURSE SHORTAGE: REPORT
(Extract from the "Sydney Morning Herald", 10 December 2008)

Remote parts of Australia should not be portrayed as tourist destinations if governments want nurses to enjoy their work and extend their stay, says a new report. Affordable housing, lifestyle and a sense of community were also flagged as key factors in staff retention by the research from Charles Darwin University's School for Social and Policy Research. The full article is at <http://news.smh.com.au/national/bush-facing-crippling-nurse-shortage-20081210-6voa.html> and the release by the University is at <http://ext.cdu.edu.au/newsroom/a/2008/Pages/101208-Nursing-report-SSPR.aspx>

+++++

RAMUS SCHOLARSHIPS - APPLICATIONS FOR 2009 ARE NOW OPEN
Apply online now! At <https://www.nrha.net.au/ei/rs.esp?id=84&scriptid=RAMLOGIN>
Applications close 5:00pm AEDST 19 January 2009. Late applications will not be accepted

To be eligible you must:

- * be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- * have lived in an Australian rural area for a defined minimum period of time. A minimum of five consecutive years, or eight cumulative years from your fifth birthday up to the time you enter medical school
- * be studying full-time in an accredited Australian medical degree. You can apply for RAMUS if you are applying to study medicine or if you are already enrolled, and in any year of your medical studies. Accredited medical courses include both undergraduate and graduate-entry courses.
- * be a member of, or agree to join, your university's student rural health club

Further information at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntContId=14716&IntCatId=7>

+++++

INCOME INEQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA: OECD

Income inequality in Australia has fallen quite sharply since 2000. It is now below the OECD average for the first time. However, poverty (meaning people who live on less than half median incomes) has not fallen, and at 12% is above the OECD average. Details at <http://www.oecd.org/els/social/inequality>

+++++

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>

+++++

EXPANSION OF INDIGENOUS CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Rudd Government has announced \$43 million in grants to expand Indigenous child and maternal health services in 32 locations around Australia.. The announcement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr176.htm>

+++++

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!

+++++

NEW INDIGENOUS CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON HEALTHY LIVING

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon has launched the national Tomorrow People Starts Today campaign to tackle obesity and chronic disease amongst Indigenous Australians. Tomorrow People Starts Today aims to empower individuals to take action in relation to their health and make changes to ensure they can lead a longer and healthier life. The Minister's statement is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr180.htm>

+++++

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>

+++++

REVIEW OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

Procedures for approving the use of new health technology in Australia will be examined to make it easier for new devices and services to be adopted, while maintaining patient safety. The statement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr187.htm>

+++++

RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

How healthy is your community?

ABC Rural and ABC Sport, together with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal,

want to help you to improve your life.

Tell us how your town is fighting obesity and other health issues, and you could win grants of up to \$20,000 to celebrate your success, and help you continue your efforts.

It might be a kitchen garden at your local school, a walking group, or an exercise program for older residents - tell us what you're doing (or plan to do) - and be in the running to share in \$100,000.

We'll give you hints and tips to help you along the way, and bring you success stories from right across rural and regional Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/features/mechange/>

THE GREATEST INJUSTICE - 2008 HAWKE LECTURE (Big Ideas: 14/12/2008)

Royal Commissions, research papers and government reports have told us for over 20 years what we need to do to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians. Yet by any measure we have failed miserably. Former Australian of the Year, Professor Fiona Stanley presents her 'manifesto' to defeat what she sees as our 'greatest injustice'.

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/351727/614869/6655/0/>

MOBILE E-HEALTH VAN TRIAL (PM: 08/12/2008)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/346415/614869/6502/0/>

New care framework will improve Aboriginal aged care services: Govt

The Federal Government says a new quality of care framework will improve Aboriginal aged care services across the Northern Territory, including the one where a woman burnt to death last year.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/21/2452045.htm>

Country health plan changes released

A revised strategy for South Australia's country health care has been released by the South Australian Government.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/17/2449100.htm>

Rural doctors attack 'inadequate' patient travel subsidy scheme

Rural doctors say the patient travel subsidy scheme is so inadequate, some people cannot afford accommodation when they travel to cities for treatment.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/15/2446413.htm?site=southqld>

Report reveals Indigenous aged care staffing shortages

There have been calls for urgent action after a new report into Aboriginal aged care services on the New South Wales north coast.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/12/2445115.htm>

Health service gets go-ahead for Aboriginal midwives

A central Australian Indigenous Health Service says it will be able to employ two Aboriginal trainee midwives for the first time.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/12/2444471.htm>

Condobolin doctor quits

The only doctor at Condobolin's Aboriginal Health Service has resigned.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/11/2443405.htm>

Union pushes for rural ambulance GPS

The union representing ambulance workers says it hopes a review of an emergency services.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/10/2442492.htm?site=tropic>

DVDs put focus on rural depression

Farmers are getting information on depression to help them deal with the illness as the drought continues in south-east New South Wales.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/08/2440615.htm>

Mobile service to treat Indigenous ear disease 'epidemic'

Indigenous communities across Queensland are closely monitoring a new mobile health screening service aimed at combating ear disease in children in the South Burnett region.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/09/2441588.htm?site=southqld>

Doctor calls for Qld Indigenous health intervention

An ear nose and throat (ENT) specialist at Brisbane's Royal Children's Hospital has called for a Northern Territory-style health intervention into Queensland's Indigenous communities.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/08/2440743.htm>

+++++

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2001-02 to 2005-06
(ABS 6524.0.55.002)

There are ten data cubes, two for each financial year from 2001-02 to 2005-06, which each provide a breakdown of personal income by the following sources - wage & salary, own unincorporated business, investment, superannuation and annuities, other income (excluding government pensions and allowances) and total income (excluding government pensions and allowances).

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6524.0.55.002?OpenDocument>

+++++

CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 1/15 December 2008

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

Journal Activities - *MJA* 2008: home sweet home

Editorial - Doctor displacement: a political agenda or a health care imperative?

Conference Report - Australian Medical Students' Association: what medical students are contributing to health care

Doctors and Patients

Perceived difficulties in consulting with patients and families: a survey of Australian cancer specialists

An improvement focus in public reporting: the Queensland approach

Qualities men value when communicating with general practitioners: implications for primary care settings

Worm's eye view

The Profession

Knowing - or not knowing - when to stop: cognitive decline in ageing doctors

Dealing with "rogue" medical students: we need a nationally consistent approach based on "case law"

Radiologists' lament
Brit abroad: thoughts of a British resident working in Sydney
The Whole Wide World
World Youth Day 2008: did it stress Sydney hospitals?
Blessings in disguise: public health emergency preparedness for World Youth Day 2008
South Africa: a 21st century apartheid in health and health care?
Health and human security in West Papua
What Australia can learn from the US health care system
Power Of One
In pursuit of patient care, research and health policy: today's research is tomorrow's practice and policy
Research Enterprise - On our selection: Australian longitudinal research studies
History
de Ketham revisited: a modern-day urine wheel
Q fever. Was Edward Derrick's contribution undervalued?
True Stories
Thirty-year follow-up at pneumonectomy of a 58-year-old survivor of disseminated osteosarcoma
Pigs, burns and curly tails
Transient ischaemic attack caused by an ingested stingray barb
No ticket for a corpse
Christmas Offerings
A sonnet to a doctor's epiphany
Foreign body inhalation: a nut in the tree
Baby in the eye?
Hospitals are dangerous places
Blowin' a blizzard in Brissie
Does degree of baldness influence vitamin D status?
Flying and medicine: mutual lessons
Kid stone: a tale of valour and writhing agony
Pneumoperitoneum: a non-surgical cause
Occasional assistance needed for general practice
The positive power of paintings
Christmas Competition - *MJA* Christmas Competition: a tonic for uncertain times

+++++

ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Evaluation of a pharmacist-led, medicines education program for Aboriginal Health Workers'
Chronic diseases are on the rise and many are being managed by a complex combination of medications which can be incomprehensible for patients. Good communication is essential and for Australian Aboriginal people, Aboriginal health workers are the most appropriate source of information. This trial of an education program shows how pharmacists and Aboriginal health workers can have two-way learning to improve the information available to patients.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=946>

'Impact of rurality on optical health: review of the literature and relevant Australian Bureau of Statistics data'

While there have been many studies on some of the proximal causes of poor vision in rural areas, such as trachoma or diabetes, there have been relative little attention paid to other factors. This review assesses the evidence for differences in prevalence of poor vision, access to services and demographic, occupational and environmental which provide the context for understanding the challenges posed by rurality.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1056>

+++++

NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2009 will be held from 5 to 12 July. Further information at <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

+++++

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 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.