

NRHA eforum 19 October 2007

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 19 October 2007

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The Alliance launched its Key Priorities and Election Charter in Parliament House on 20 September 2007. These documents, together with other election related material, can be found on the 'Election Section' of the Alliance website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/election/?IntCatId=24>.

Other rural health organisations' election websites include:

- * Rural Doctors Association election update - <http://www.rdaa.com.au/>
- * Australian Nursing Federation - http://www.anf.org.au/federal_election/election_index.html

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E-News from the Alliance: October 2007

New Scorecard and Media Release on the Alliance's website

The Alliance's Scorecard in the 'Election Section' of our website has been updated: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/election/?IntContId=244&IntCatId=24>

In that Section you can also find our Key Priorities; Election Charter and election media releases.

You can also download and print a copy of a 'Vote 1 Rural Health' poster to display in your workplace, or read the lyrics of 'Call me a Vote' by John Shortis and Moya Simpson.

Election Section: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/election/?IntCatId=24>

We still want to hear your rural health story!

Do you have a particular story to tell that would be of interest to the media in the election campaign? If so, we'd love to receive it from you. We are after both positive and negative stories that can be used to highlight the real issues facing people in rural and remote Australia.

Please send your story to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au together with your contact details and a photograph if you have one.

Partyline No 31

Partyline No 31 will be in the mail next week. It contains articles from the Minister for Health and Ageing and Shadow Minister for Health, as well other material related to the election. It includes success stories in health service delivery in rural areas, reports on the Croc Fest and Garma Festival, community health education programs and other resources and news.

Included with *Partyline* will be a hardcopy of the Alliance's Key Priorities document as well as our 2008 calendar - we hope you like it.

The electronic version of *Partyline* will also be available next week in the 'Publications' section of our website at:

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

If you don't receive *Partyline* but would like to, send your contact details to nrha@ruralhealth.org.au and let us know if you'd prefer a hard copy in the mail or email notification of its availability on the webpage.

friends of the Alliance in 2008

friends membership is for a calendar year and tax invoices for 2008 will be sent out soon so please consider joining again in 2008. If you wish to join now your membership will run until the end of 2008. Keep an eye on the friends page of our website for up-to-date information about friends

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>

Indigenous nutrition

If you are interested in nutrition and Indigenous health, go to the link on the front page of our website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> to find information on the National Nutrition Networks Conference, to be held in Alice Springs in March 2008.

The call for abstracts is now open and they are due by 14 November 2007.

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COALITION LAGS BEHIND LABOR ON RURAL HEALTH SCORECARD

The Coalition's repeated failure to adopt a strategic and collaborative approach to improvements in Australia's health care system sees it continue to lag significantly behind Labor on the latest National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) election

scorecard. "Unlike the ALP, the Coalition has so far failed to commit to the development of a national health policy and plan," said NRHA Chairperson, Professor John Wakerman. The full text of the NRHA statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/scorecard%20release%2018%20october.pdf> and is reprinted below, and the scorecard is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/scorecard%20release%2018%20october.pdf>

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\$34 BILLION WOULD BUY A LOT OF HEALTH SERVICES

The National Rural Health Alliance says that the Coalition's plans for \$34 billion in tax cuts over five years is insensitive given recent tragic evidence of the incapacity of Australia's public hospital system and other urgent issues in health. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/34%20billion%20dollars%20insensitive.pdf> and is reprinted below.

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RURAL HEALTH ELECTION SCORECARD GETS DOWN TO THE NITTY GRITTY

With the election campaign now upon us the NRHA is looking to negotiate specific rural health issues with the major political parties. The Democrats have already committed to a majority of the issues identified by the Alliance in its recent Election Charter on rural and remote health. Just this week serious negotiations have begun with the Greens. The hope now is that the Coalition and Labor will also begin to focus directly on specific health issues affecting people in rural and remote Australia. The full text of the NRHA statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/scorecard%20release%2011%20october.pdf> and is reprinted below.

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VAILE PUTS RURAL HEALTH AS NATS TOP ISSUE

National Party leader, Mark Vaile, has put health as The Nationals' top priority. "The biggest issue facing local communities at this election is the terribly rundown state of public hospitals under the watch of the various Labor State governments," he said in his opening statement of the 2007 election campaign. Further details of Mr Vaile's comments are in a FarmOnline article at http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=46159

As an example, the Coalition has announced that the Dubbo base of the Royal Flying Doctor Service will receive \$605,000 from a re-elected Coalition Government to improve healthcare services for people throughout north western NSW. Mr Vaile's announcement is at <http://www.nationals.org.au/news/default.asp?action=article&ID=3959>

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"ICE" - OUT IN THE COLD - LIVE SATELLITE TV BROADCAST PRODUCED
BY THE RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Tuesday 23rd October 2007 (repeated Friday 26th October 12:30pm EST)

Funded by Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Crystal Methamphetamine or "Ice" is a growing problem in Australia. As a long-acting stimulant, "Ice" causes significant strain on the cardiac, respiratory and nervous systems. Effects include suppressed appetite, interference with sleeping behaviour, mood swings and unpredictability, and tremors and convulsions. "Ice" can also cause erratic, violent behaviour among its users, including acute psychosis. Long-term effects include stroke, coma and death, as well as chronic psychotic disorder. This creates a myriad of problems for the individual, family, and community.

This program aims to help health workers increase their understanding of the range of effects of crystal meth or "Ice". The program provides strategies for treatment, management, and dealing with problems related to use of illicit drugs such as "Ice" in rural and remote areas. Finally, it explores various strategies to build resilience and preventing substance abuse, particularly among young people.

Program information can be found by clicking
<http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/714/714.html>
Contact: Rural Health Education Foundation via email rhef@rhef.com.au or telephone (02) 6232-5480

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From: Don Perlgut
Subject: MBS Item 717, the 45-49 year old health check - Rural Health Education Foundation satellite broadcast - Tuesday 30th October 2007

An Ounce of Prevention: MBS Item 717, the 45-49 year old Health Check

Rural Health Education Foundation pre-recorded Satellite Television Broadcast
Tuesday 30th October 8pm AEDT
(repeated Friday 2nd November 12:30pm AEDT)

An Australian Better Health Initiative: A Joint Australian, State and Territory Government initiative

Program Information
Satellite Site Locations

Patients in the 45-49 year age group have an increased risk of developing a chronic disease: the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that 94% of males and 89% of females in the 45-54-age range have at least one risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and almost one in four Australians 25 years and over has

either diabetes or impaired glucose metabolism. The new MBS item #717 allows for GPs to provide a preventive health check for people between the ages of 45 and 49 (inclusive) who are at risk of developing a chronic disease. Implemented as part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) "Australian Better Health Initiative", the health check aims to assist with the prevention of chronic disease and to enable early intervention strategies to be put in place where appropriate.

An important link with 45-49 year old health check is Lifescripts. Using the SNAPS Guide, Lifescripts provides a population health focus allowing GPs to systematically target patients and offer treatment appropriate to their needs.

This program explores the link between these two initiatives and some of the frequently asked questions: which patients are eligible for the health check, what must the health check include, what is the Medicare rebate, how often can the item be claimed, which doctors can claim this item, what is the role of the GP, what is role of the practice nurse and other health professionals.

The panel also presents a practice business case for using the Item number. Several filmed case studies demonstrate the use of the MBS item #717 in General Practice.

After watching this program, participants will be able to:

- * Identify the parameters of the MBS Item #717
- * Demonstrate understanding of item #717 as an enabler of preventative health care
- * Understand the link between Lifescripts and the 45-49 year old health check and the benefits of using them concurrently in early intervention practices
- * Recognise the practice advantages of item #717 in relation to the presented business case.

Panellists include:

Chair: Dr Norman Swan, Presenter of the Health Report on ABC Radio National

Dr Mark Nelson, Professor & Head of General Practice, University of Tasmania

Dr Emil Djakic, Rural General Practitioner, Ulverstone, Tasmania & Chair, North West Division, Tasmania

Ms Cheryl Amoroso, Research Fellow UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care & Equity NSW.

Broadcast details on the Foundation's satellite network

This pre-recorded program will be broadcast on Tuesday 23 October on Channel 4 at:

- 8.00pm in ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC & QLD

- 7.30pm in SA & NT

- 6.00pm in WA (and repeated in WA on Channel 23 at 8.00pm)

Repeated on Friday 26th October on Channel 23 at:

- 12.30pm in ACT, NSW, VIC, TAS & QLD

- 12 noon in SA & NT

- 10.30am in WA

This program will be web streamed after the broadcast and will also be available as a downloadable audio MP3 file and DVD. For more details visit the <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/715/715.html> program page or contact the Foundation.

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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.

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RDAA STATEMENTS

Rural hospital crisis not isolated to Tasmania

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) welcomes the Federal Government's funding announcements for a number of northern Tasmanian rural hospitals but warns there are many more rural hospitals crying out for - and worthy of - additional funding throughout the rest of Australia.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20RELEASE%202010_10_07.pdf

Grafton Hospital needs money, not politics

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) welcomes the Prime Minister's offer of \$18 million for a revamp of the struggling Grafton Base Hospital in northern NSW but warns health funding should not be politicised.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20RELEASE%202011_10_07.pdf

Rural Health Action an Election Must, Rural Doctors Urge

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is calling on all parties contesting the federal election to commit to a Rural Health Obligation setting minimum standards of access to local healthcare services for all rural Australians, in order to prevent a national rural health disaster.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20Health%20Action%20an%20Election%20Must,%20Rural%20Doctors%20Urge%20--%20October%202007.htm

Doctor and nurse shortage the biggest issue for rural voters

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) warned that the desperate need to attract more doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to country towns is by far the biggest issue for rural voters at the federal election.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Doctor%20and%20nurse%20shortage%20the%20biggest%20issue%20for%20rural%20voters%20--%20October%202007.pdf

Urban GPs support a better deal for rural doctors: survey

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is encouraged by the results of an Australian Doctor survey of almost 600 urban and rural GPs, which suggests most urban doctors recognise the broader skills and added responsibility of rural practice, with over half supporting the introduction of rural-specific support incentives for rural doctors.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Urban%20GPs%20support%20a%20better%20deal%20for%20rural%20doctors%20--%20October%202007.pdf

4 cents a day can ease rural health crisis: RDAA

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is calling upon all parties contesting the federal election to use just a fraction of the larger-than-expected Budget surplus to recruit doctors to rural communities and help ease the workforce crisis presently impacting the health of so many Australians.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20RELEASE%2017_10_07.pdf

Debate must address needs of rural Australia

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) warns this weekend's Prime Ministerial debate between John Howard and Kevin Rudd will be irrelevant to one-third of Australians unless it addresses the dire problems facing rural communities.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20RELEASE%2019_10_07.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 October 2007 issue of the journal is available online now at

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/links/toc/ajr>. Articles include:

- * The Northern Territory can provide hope for the future
- * Where is the evidence that rural exposure increases uptake of rural medical practice?
- * Informing rural and remote students about careers in health: Factors influencing career decisions
- * Diabetes risk factors, diabetes and diabetes care in a rural Australian community
- * Improving access to and outcomes from mental health care in rural Australia
- * Where do I go from here: We've got enough seniors?
- * Self-reported confidence and skills of general practitioners in management of mental health disorders
- * Cardiovascular risk levels in general practice patients with type 2 diabetes in rural and urban areas
- * Supporting an emerging workforce: Characteristics of rural and remote therapy assistants in Western Australia
- * 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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From: Don Perlgut
Subject: Rural Health Education Foundation program on Overseas Trained Doctors - 4th December 2007

The Rural Health Education Foundation is currently developing a program of overseas trained doctors (OTDs) in Australia that will be broadcast on the 4th December 2007, entitled Over the Seas & Into the Bush - Overseas Trained Doctors in Rural Australia. See this website page for more information about the program: <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/719/719.html>

The program will look at the various challenges and opportunities faced by OTDs. It will also present insights from supervising doctors, and the various parties involved, such as the regional training providers, accreditation bodies, and professional organisations.

As part of the development of the program we are seeking input from OTDs by way of completing an online survey. The more responses we get the more adequately we can cover their issues.

The Foundation is keen for you could share information email with any OTD/IMGs within your network to encourage them to go on to our website and complete a quick

survey. <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/719/719s.html>

There is also an opportunity for people to register their interest in the program.

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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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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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NEW ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Could we care for Amillia in rural Australia?'

In rural areas, working with children who have special needs can be frustrating. The resources that parents can access in the city to help maximise their child's

development often do not exist. This personal view reflects on the recent case of "Amillia" , an extremely preterm infant born in the USA, where such access for children with disabilities is enshrined in law. While Amillia would not have been so fortunate if she had been born in Australia, this commentary encourages those who advocate for rural children with special needs to keep the issue in the spotlight.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=768>

'Understanding Australian rural women's ways of achieving health and wellbeing - a metasynthesis of the literature'

Qualitative studies provide rich insights into the lives of informants and increasingly rural health research can offer many such studies. This article pulls together the findings of six qualitative studies on Australian rural women's strategies to maintain health to create a new and deeper understanding of the issues then is possible in single case studies. The article is not only about an important topic but it is also provides a clear explanation of a technique known as metasynthesis which is increasingly being used to create robust and generalisable results from multiple qualitative studies.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=823>

'Aboriginal women caregivers of the elderly'

It is humbling to attempt to summarize in sentences what has taken a lifetime to compile and understand. Crosato, Ward-Griffin and Leipert have devoted such an effort to understanding the Aboriginal women caregivers of the elderly. For practitioners, systems and nations to understand health care, they must understand the richness of variation and context, simplified by the concept of Circles of Caring illustrated in the article.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=796>

'John Flynn meets James Mackenzie: developing the discipline of rural and remote medicine in Australia'

Rural and remote medicine is a "broad church" and although we may believe that it is a recent academic speciality, this essay tells the story of how a Clergyman, Reverend John Flynn, developed a lasting rural clinical service in Australia nearly 100 years ago. It also reveals that the father of modern cardiology, James Mackenzie, was really a generalist at heart. The essay offers a way to use the infrastructure established by the Rural Clinical School program in Australia to guide the vocational training pathways for the rural generalists and specialists of tomorrow.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=726>

'Correlations suggest low magnesium may lead to higher rates of type 2 diabetes in Indigenous Australians'

Research over the past two decades is building evidence of a clinical correlation between diabetes and low magnesium intake. In this paper Queensland researcher draw on a range of ecological data and convenience samples to argue that low magnesium in water, and through poor dietary intake and sweat loss may be responsible for the high rates of diabetes in Indigenous Australian populations. With greater international attention on the importance of magnesium, readers will find this article's implications for rural health thought provoking.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=843>

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BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information <http://www.bushcrisisline.org.au>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

STOLEN WAGES FUND SHOULD BE USED FOR HEALTH CARE:

ABORIGINAL ELDER (Lateline: 10/10/2007)
<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2007/s2055343.htm>

NT DOCTORS CALL FOR FOLLOW-UP FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS

HEALTH (The World Today: 05/10/2007)
<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2007/s2051862.htm>

FARMERS MORE WILLING TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS

It's National Mental Health Week, and the good news is that country Australians are becoming more willing to about open about their own mental health problems, and those of their families. Dr Nick Foster, from Crisis Support Services in Melbourne, is one of the health workers who's been travelling through rural Australia, attending agricultural field days and talking with rural communities affected by the drought.

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ANF RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

As part of the 8th Biennial National Conference, and in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia, the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) launched their Reconciliation Action Plan in what Jill Iliffe, Federal Secretary of the ANF said is a commitment by the federation to Indigenous self determination and health equality.

The ANF say they are excited to be the first union and one of the first health care stakeholders to develop such a plan, which includes strategies to develop a greater understanding of Indigenous culture within the ANF, increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in nursing, and promote Indigenous self determination and healthy communities.

The Action Plan is available at
http://www.anf.org.au/anf_pdf/ANF_Reconciliation_Action_Plan.pdf

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

From the Editor's Desk: Ode to hospitals
Look what I can do while I'm driving: implications for road safety in Australia
The Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program may be left high and dry
Handheld mobile telephone use among Melbourne drivers
HIV diagnoses in Australia: diverging epidemics within a low-prevalence country
Choice and voice: obesity debates in television news
Our hearts and minds - what would it take for Australia to become the healthiest country in the world?
Delivery of preventive health services to Indigenous adults: response to a systems-oriented primary care quality improvement intervention
Chronic kidney disease and automatic reporting of estimated glomerular filtration rate: revised recommendations
Breast implant mimicking pericardial effusion in a cancer patient undergoing gated heart pool radionuclide study
Raw salmon or red herring: ascending paralysis with suspected seafood poisoning

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DOCTOR NEEDED TO SUPPORT ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

The Department of Health and Ageing has sent notices to 51,000 GPs and general practices, calling for volunteers to support the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Checks Initiative. Dr Tim Williams, Senior Medical Adviser for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), who is heading up the health teams, said that 40 doctors and 77 nurses have already been deployed to 34 communities in the Northern Territory to support existing NT and Aboriginal Medical Services by conducting standard child health checks to help improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous children. The focus of the child health check is on the general health and wellbeing of Indigenous children. The full text of the statement is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/mr-yr07-dept-dept006.htm>

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Safety awards coincide with drop in farm deaths
(Extract from FarmOnline, 5 October 2007. Full story at http://www.farmonline.com.au/news_daily.asp?ag_id=45927)

The winners of the inaugural Farmsafe Farmer Awards have been announced in Adelaide, coinciding with new figures showing a drop in the annual death rate from injury on Australian farms. The death rate now stands at below 100 deaths each year, well down on previous figures as high as 150. Farm-related injuries also cause 6500 hospital admissions and almost 6000 workers' compensation claims in Australia every year. All-up they represent an annual burden of up to \$1.29 billion on the farming community.

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

ACRRM and RDAA will hold their AGMs at the Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Federal Hwy, Canberra ACT 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. Register online at <http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au/announcements/conference/index.htm>. A hardcopy of the registration pack can be obtained by emailing the Conference Secretariat.

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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"DISADVANTAGE AND DIVERSITY" - AUSTRALIA'S WELFARE 2007 CONFERENCE

Thursday 6 December, The Marque Hotel, 102 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

"Disadvantage and Diversity", a one-day conference to be held in the nation's capital, will provide a forum for debate and discussion on some of the issues facing Australia's Welfare. Topics covered will include ageing and aged care, children, youth and families, welfare service resources, and the dynamics of homelessness. if you

would like to register your interest to receive further information please contact the conference coordinator by telephone or email - Alison Diamond, Tel (02) 6244 1287, Fax (02) 6244 1299, Email conference2007@aihw.gov.au

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DIVERSITY IN HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Diversity in Health 2008: Strengths and Sustainable Solutions Conference (DIH 2008) will be the major event in diversity health in Australia for 2008.

The international conference will be held at the premier conference site at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, from 10-12 March 2008. DIH 2008 will bring national and international leaders in the health industry together to showcase new and innovative approaches to providing quality health care for Australia's diverse communities. The conference will consider, review and develop strengths and sustainable solutions in the overall approach to health and well-being of culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

To register or to find out more about this momentous event, please go to: <http://www.dhi.gov.au/conference>. Brochures can be downloaded off the website or you can contact the Conference Secretariat on Tel: +61 2 9840 3800 Fax: +61 2 9840 3319, or email: dhi@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au

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From: Julie-Anne McWhinnie
Subject: Preliminary Notice re National Nutrition Networks Conference 08

The National Nutrition Networks '08 Conference
11 - 14 March 2008
Alice Springs Convention Centre, Northern Territory

This conference will be of interest to those working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nutrition. Mark these dates in your diary now!

A call for abstracts will follow in the week of 8th of October, closing 26th October. Further details will follow.

The National Nutrition Networks Conference
PO Box 280
DEAKIN WEST ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6285 4660
Fax: 02 6285 4670
Email: conference@ruralhealth.org.au or register@ruralhealth.org.au

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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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ETHICAL RESPONSIVENESS - 2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Stamford Grand, Adelaide, 23-25 May 2008

You are invited to attend the third national conference for the Australian College for Child and Family Protection Practitioners in Adelaide.

The conference theme "Ethical Responsiveness" reflects the broad contexts of Australian child and family practice. Workers in the child and family welfare sectors are generally ethical and responsive. This conference celebrates the work done by both statutory and non-government agencies alike in supporting vulnerable children, young people and their families. As debates continue within the child and family welfare system about the effectiveness of strategies to support vulnerable children, the professions are instead struggling to reconcile the need for appropriate supportive relationships with clients against ever increasing compliance bureaucracy. This conference supports the presentation and testing of practice frameworks and is interested in hearing about approaches which make a real difference to people's lives. Conversely presentations on practice issues are also welcomed to improve the evidence base of the profession.

On behalf of the organising committee we invite you to submit an abstract for evaluation for presentation at the Conference. Abstracts are due by December 31, 2007.

Important dates
Abstracts due 31 December 2007
Acceptance notified by 25 January, 2008
Early bird Registration closes 7 March, 2008

The Conference secretariat is based at the Mackay Offices of Relate Human Services,
PO Box 1401, Mackay 4740, Phone 07-49575400 Fax 07-49575488
Email: acfp@bigpond.net.au
<http://www.relatehumanservices.com.au>

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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
Calwe ll ACt 2905
Ph (02) 6292 9000
congress2008@confco.com.au

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10th National Rural Health Conference
The 10th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Cairns in May 2009. Keep an eye on our website for up-to-date information about the Conference. The first announcement will be the Call for Abstracts in early 2008.

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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 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.

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Media Release

11 October 2007

Rural health Election Scorecard gets down to the nitty gritty

With the election campaign now almost upon us the NRHA is looking to negotiate specific rural health issues with the major political parties.

The Democrats have already committed to a majority of the issues identified by the Alliance in its recent Election Charter on rural and remote health. Just this week serious negotiations have begun with the Greens.

The hope now is that the Coalition and Labor will also begin to focus directly on specific health issues affecting people in rural and remote Australia.

"Despite the high profile health issues have enjoyed in the phoney campaign, the major parties - and in particular the Coalition - have considerable ground to make up on the Democrats and Greens," Professor John Wakerman, Chairperson of the Alliance, said today.

"In the past week there has been more emphasis by the major parties on cherry picking in particular electorates than on providing coherent national policies. The renewed emphasis by Tony Abbott on the capacity of the Australian Health Care Agreements as the framework for Commonwealth/State agreements is promising," he said.

"We also note the additional commitment from Labor to the Access to Allied Psychological Services scheme. The Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care program is valuable where doctors have the capacity to be involved, but we will still require special mental health interventions tailored for smaller towns and remote areas," said Professor Wakerman.

The latest Alliance election scorecard shows that neither the Coalition nor the ALP are so far scoring on five or six issues the Alliance considers to be among its top 10 priorities.

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Media Release

hospitals, he said the Coalition will need to commit to collaborating in the development of a national health policy and national plan to clarify the roles of respective governments.

"Labor intends to establish a National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission to do this and has committed to a specific rural and remote health plan within the national health policy," Professor Wakerman said.

"By contrast, on hospitals the Coalition has taken over at the Mersey, allocated money to one particular Base Hospital, and indicated through a media release (without detail or explanation) that it intends to support local hospital boards.

"The Coalition also has a partial approach to better dental care. People with a chronic medical condition and poor dental health have access to service through a doctor and Medicare. But all other Parties have committed to a new national dental health program to provide check-ups and follow-up for those in greatest need.

"This Coalition's partial and ad hoc approach on Indigenous affairs, hospitals and dental health appears to be in contrast to its ability to engage in strategic planning for tax reform.

"There is time for the Coalition to turn this around, by meeting the community's desire for the national government to show vision and collaboration in providing access to services and a planned future for Australia's health and hospital system," Professor Wakerman said.

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