

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 23 May 2008

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NO BUDGET SURPRISES FOR RURAL HEALTH

While tonight's Budget reveals no surprises for rural health, the National Rural Health Alliance acknowledges that the Rudd government has honoured its election commitments to the bush.

The Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP) will receive an additional \$9 million over three years. There is also an additional \$5.9 million over three years for the Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme (SOLS) operating in rural areas, and an additional \$2.5 million over three years for clinical placement scholarships for allied health students.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/media%20release%2013%20may.pdf> and is reproduced below

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OTHER BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS

Strengthening Rural and Regional Australia

http://www.budget.gov.au/2008-09/content/ministerial_statements/html/index.htm

Closing the Gap Between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians

http://www.budget.gov.au/2008-09/content/ministerial_statements/html/index_indigenous.htm

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon and Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said the Australian Government is investing \$334.8 million towards closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation. Measures include \$101.5 million extra funding for maternal and child health services. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2008-hmedia008.htm>

Australian Broadband Guarantee funding until 2012

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, announced an extension of the Australian Broadband Guarantee program to safeguard the broadband opportunities for all Australians, while the Government continues to implement its broader broadband policy agenda. The Australian Broadband Guarantee program will receive additional funding in the 2008–09 Budget which will bring the total program funding up to \$270.7 million over four years. “The Australian Broadband Guarantee has played an important role in ensuring high-quality, equitable broadband access for the more remote areas of Australia,” Senator Conroy said. http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2008/032

In the Budget, the Government signalled a new direction on regional development and will establish a new and accountable Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to fund local community infrastructure in regional Australia. The statement by Regional Development and Local Government Minister, Anthony Albanese MP, is at http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/releases/2008/may/aa042_2008.htm

NEW DIRECTION FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

The 2008-09 Budget delivers a new direction for regional Australia, with a \$176 million Better Regions program and up to \$74 million for the Regional Development Australia network. A new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program will supplement these programs from next year's Budget and fund major investments in regional communities. The Rudd Labor Government's regional development initiatives in this Budget will help drive economic prosperity and growth in regional Australia, and engage with communities to meet their needs.

http://www.minister.infrastructure.gov.au/aa/releases/2008/May/budget-infra_13-2008.htm

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OTHER BUDGET REACTION

Ongoing Effort Needed to Close Aboriginal Health Gap

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO, the peak body for Aboriginal medical services says “The Aboriginal health measures in the federal budget are welcomed but they will need to be ramped up dramatically to achieve the Prime Minister’s promise to get Aboriginal medical services up to scratch by 2018”.

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/media/media%20release%2014%20may.pdf>

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is extremely disappointed that the Rudd Government has largely ignored the health needs of rural communities in its first budget, with very little additional funding allocated to get rural health off life support and increase the number of health professionals in rural and remote Australia. This really is a case of different piper, same tune RDAA President, Dr Peter Rischbieth, said.

Unfortunately rural health has received the same poor treatment in this budget as it did in budgets delivered under the previous Coalition Government.

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Different%20piper,%20same%20tune%20--%20rural%20health%20ignored%20in%20Rudd%20Budget%20--%20May%202008.pdf

The Royal Flying Doctor Service celebrates 80 years of magnificent service to Australia today, with millions of people owing their good health or lives to the men and women of the Service. The Leader of The Nationals, Warren Truss, said incredible work had been performed over that time by dedicated doctors, nurses, other health professionals, pilots and administrative staff. Eighty years ago today, the Royal Flying Doctor Service under the Reverend John Flynn leased its first plane from Qantas for a trial service out of Cloncurry. From 250 patients tended in 1928, the Flying Doctor now treats more than 250,000 patients in rural, regional and remote Australia every year. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Flying Doctor, Mr Truss said. The nation was built at least in part on the back of its remarkable actions over the past eight decades.

Unfortunately, in the very same week that the Flying Doctor turns 80, the new Labor Government in Canberra has scrapped, Mr Truss said.

<http://www.nationals.org.au/news/default.asp?action=article&ID=4764>

The Australian Medical Association has attacked the Rudd Government over its lack of action on rural health. AMA President, Dr Rosanna Capolingua, said she was bitterly disappointed that the Federal Government did not put in any significant extra funding to address medical workforce shortages in regional and rural Australia. Dr Capolingua accused the Government of making a song and dance about the shortages following the release of the Audit of Health Workforce in Rural and Regional Australia two weeks ago and then not putting any real money into fixing the problem.

<http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-7EMVGM>

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RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE HONOURS NURSING HEROES

Tomorrow marks the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is widely acknowledged as the pioneer of modern nursing. With 12 May now universally acclaimed as International Nurses Day, the National Rural Health Alliance honours the 285,500 nurses and midwives who provide primary health care to the nation. The full text of the NRHA statement is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/nurses%20day%2011%20may%202008.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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FLYING DOCTOR TURNS 80

(Extract from Farmonline,

<http://theland.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/general/article/771037.aspx>)

The Royal Flying Doctor Service celebrates 80 years of magnificent service to Australia, with millions of people owing their good health or lives to the men and women of the Service.

Eighty years ago, the Royal Flying Doctor Service under the Reverend John Flynn leased its first plane from Qantas for a trial service out of Cloncurry. From 250 patients tended in 1928, the Flying Doctor now treats more than 250,000 patients in rural, regional and remote Australia every year.

RFDS Statement

<http://www.flyingdoctor.net/Content.aspx?PageID=233&ItemID=2>

On the 17th May 1928 the very first Flying Doctor flight took off from Cloncurry, Queensland to answer a call for help from the remote town of Julia Creek. On board the De Havilland, a single engine, fabric covered bi-plane called "Victory", was the first Flying Doctor, Dr. Kenyon St. Vincent Welch and the first Flying Doctor pilot, Captain Arthur Affleck. Their aircraft had the most basic instruments and no radio. On that day, the Reverend John Flynn's extraordinary vision to alleviate the isolation and suffering of people living the harsh outback became a reality and a quintessential part of the fabric of Australia. In 2008, we celebrate not only Rev. John Flynn's dream but the incredible technological advances in medicine, aviation and communication which have allowed the Flying Doctor to bring the Bush and coastal cities closer. We also celebrate the spirit of Australians whose courage continues to inspire the RFDS to provide excellence in aero-medical and primary health care across Australia.

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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 at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/conferences/docs/10thNRHC/10thNRHC.htm> for up-to-date information about the Conference. The first announcement will be the Call for Abstracts in early 2008.

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From: Lyn Eiszele <lyn@ruralhealth.org.au>
Subject: National Nutrition Networks Conference (NNNC 08)

An update to all those who attended the NNNC 08

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Conference Recommendations Committee has developed a set of priority recommendations for future action and advocacy for key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nutrition issues, which is now available on both the HealthInfoNet and NNNC 08 websites.

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au>
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

YARNING PLACE ON HEALTHINFONET

HealthInfoNet also provides a facilitated 'yarning' place for on-line nutrition discussion, resource sharing and support. The success of this depends on YOU to join up and contribute. Go to http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/nutrition_yarningplace

The Conference team
National Rural Health Alliance

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HOW TO 'CLOSE THE GAP' FASTER

The Australian Medical Association today called on the Rudd Government to quarantine a significant proportion of the \$10 billion Health and Hospitals Fund for 'closing the gap' in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
<http://www.ama.com.au/web.nsf/doc/WEEN-7ET2EU>

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MABEL

Improving your working life - MABEL survey to be sent to every doctor in Australia.

MABEL (Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life) is a major new national, longitudinal survey of doctors that aims to make a difference. Funded by the NHMRC and conducted by researchers at the University of Melbourne and Monash University, invite letters for the first wave are being sent to all doctors in Australia during May and June. For more information please visit the website <http://www.mabel.org.au>

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THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The Australian Medical Association said a Far North Queensland allied health worker has won this year's Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition for his essay on cardiovascular disease in indigenous Australians. Barry Fewquandie's essay, The heart of the matter is, that it's a matter of the heart, was judged the best essay by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person on the topic of indigenous health. Mr Fewquandie's essay appears in the Indigenous health issue of The Medical Journal of Australia. Like the late Dr Ingram, after whom the competition is named, Mr Fewquandie has been directly affected by heart disease. <http://www.mja.com.au>

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PARTYline Newsletter

The March 2008 version of PARTYline is now available. Contents include:

- * The full agenda on the rural health workforce challenge
- * Calls for further debate about professional scopes of practice, multi-disciplinary teams and the design of training systems for health professionals.
- * Reports on the forthcoming Federal Budget, the Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, ambulance services, allied health and the work-life balance of general practitioners.
- * A two-page spread on 'Advice to the Health Minister' from friends of the Alliance.

PARTYline is available at

http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/publications/partyline_32_08.pdf

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

The electronic version of Partyline is also available 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.

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RDAА STATEMENTS

RDAА congratulates the Flying Doctors on 80 years of saving lives

19 May 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAА%20congratulates%20the%20Flying%20Doctors%20on%2080%20years%20of%20saving%20lives%20--%20May%202008.pdf

Government funding supports rural obstetricians

18 May 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Government%20funding%20supports%20rural%20obstetricians%20--%2018%20May%202008.pdf

RDAА welcomes ACCC decision

15 May 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/ACFC714.pdf

Different piper, same tune: rural health ignored in Rudd Budget

13 May 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Different%20piper,%20same%20tune%20--%20rural%20health%20ignored%20in%20Rudd%20Budget%20--%20May%202008.pdf

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The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals.

Get published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health!*

The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, *How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health*. Manuscripts can be submitted online at

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to:

AJRH Editorial Office

Australian Journal of Rural Health

550 Swanston Street

Carlton VIC 3053

April 2008 issue now available. Contents include:

Rural and remote public health in Australia: An introduction to the special issue

Rural and remote public health in Australia: Building on our strengths

Review Article - Addressing the health disadvantage of rural populations: How does epidemiological evidence inform rural health policies and research?

Implementing a chronic disease strategy in two remote Indigenous Australian settings: A multi-method pilot evaluation
Lukumbat marawana: A changing pattern of drug use by youth in a remote Aboriginal community
Mobilising a rural community to lose weight: Impact evaluation of the WellingTonne Challenge
Rural obesity, healthy weight and perceptions of risk: Struggles, strategies and motivation for change
Physical activity behaviours of adults in the Greater Green Triangle region of rural Australia
An evaluation of a community pharmacy-based rural asthma management service
Evaluation of iodine levels in the Riverina population
Short Report - Feeling safe in one's neighbourhood: Variation by location among older Australians
Grazing - Health workforce crisis: How to achieve a work–life balance
From the Journal Associates - NRF: Mental health support for rural practitioners

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.

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AIHW REPORTS

Boys more likely to have a congenital anomaly
A report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) presents information on 33 major birth defects and shows that for many conditions, more males than females were reported to have a congenital anomaly (59% versus 41%). The report, *Congenital anomalies in Australia 2002–2003*, shows that the most commonly reported condition is hypospadias (an abnormally-placed urinary opening in the male urethra). Conditions that affect both sexes, but are more prevalent in boys, include congenital heart diseases, oesophageal defects and kidney cysts. A higher overall rate of congenital anomalies was reported for the births to Indigenous women compared with non-Indigenous women (356 per 10,000 births versus 308 per 10,000 births). Nearly 72% of the Indigenous women whose pregnancies were affected with a congenital anomaly were aged less than 30 years.
The AIHW release is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20080514.cfm> and the full publication is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10577>

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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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CANCER CARE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Indigenous people in Queensland are less likely to receive adequate management for lung cancer, according to a research paper published in the 19 May Indigenous health issue of The Medical Journal of Australia. Dr Michael Coory from the University of Queensland's School of Population Health and his co-authors compared survival of Indigenous and non-Indigenous lung cancer patients treated in Queensland public hospitals between 1996 and 2002. One hundred and fifty-eight Indigenous and 152 non-Indigenous patients took part. Lung cancer is the most common cancer among Indigenous Australians, accounting for 27 per cent of all cancer deaths compared to 17 per cent of cancer deaths in non-Indigenous Australians.

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/188_10_190508/bof10392_fm.html

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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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SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO REDUCE INDIGENOUS SMOKING

The number of Indigenous Australians who use tobacco is about three times the Australian average, with smoking accounting for 17 per cent of the health gap between Indigenous and other Australians and 20 per cent of all Indigenous deaths. In view of this, two prominent Aboriginal health research groups are seeking to develop a coordinated approach to research and action around Indigenous smoking rates. The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC) and the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) will jointly host a National Tobacco Control Roundtable in Brisbane. Details at <http://www.crcah.org.au/>

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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 WEB

NRHA Annual Conference

The National Rural Health Association's 2008 Annual Rural Health Conference
<http://nrhapress.com/conferences/sub/AnnConf.html>

Irish Rural Health

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

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**MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR 2006 CENSUS COMMUNITY PROFILE SERIES, 2006
(ABS 2001.0.55.003)**

The Making the Most of Your 2006 Census Community Profile Series is an easy reference guide for users of the Community Profile Series. The booklet provides a table index and geography information for the Profiles which make up the Community Profile Series. Details at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2001.0.55.003?OpenDocument>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

(From ABC Health Updates, <http://abcmail.net.au/t/73489/614869/1366/0/>)

MEDICS WARN OF ABORIGINAL INTERVENTION COMPLACENCY (News Video: 18/05/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/159543/614869/3341/0/>

FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE TURNS 80 (AM: 17/05/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/159543/614869/3342/0/>

NT Aboriginal follow-up health checks 'a long process'
Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon admits following-up on health checks conducted under the Northern Territory federal intervention will be a long process.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/05/18/2248229.htm>

Health system failing Indigenous cancer patients: report
A public health medical officer from Alice Springs has published an article which is critical of how Indigenous cancer patients are dealt with in the health system.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/05/18/2248175.htm>

Outback marks 80 year of Flying Doctors
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/05/17/2247937.htm>

DARWIN DOCTORS FIRST IN AUSTRALIA TO USE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS (AM: 15/05/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/154160/614869/3246/0/>

INQUEST PROBES DEATH OF BOY SNIFFING OPAL FUEL (PM: 12/05/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/154160/614869/3256/0/>

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LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS
(ABS 6287.0)

In 2007, an estimated 183,800 Indigenous people were in the labour force (i.e. either employed or unemployed). This represents a labour force participation rate for all Indigenous people aged 15 years and over of 56%.

In 2007, there were an estimated 50,100 Indigenous people employed in Major Cities, 66,600 employed in Regional areas and 41,200 employed in Remote areas. The employment to population ratio was 50% in Major Cities, 48% in Regional areas and 46% in Remote areas.

In 2007, the unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was 14%. The unemployment rate for Indigenous people was 14% in Major Cities, 17% in Regional areas, and 9% in Remote areas. However, estimates of unemployment for Remote areas should be used with great care as they are subject to high sampling errors, and generally have an underdeveloped labour market and this is reflected in the low number of Indigenous people actively looking for work and therefore not classified as unemployed.

Details at
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6287.0Main+Features12007?OpenDocument>

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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Tele-pharmacy in remote medical practice: the Royal Flying Doctor Service Medical Chest Program'

Since 1942, Australia's Royal Flying Doctor Service telemed consultations have been supported by remotely located medical chests. Read about the contents of these chests, and a description of this unique model of pharmaceutical support for remote medical practice.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=937>

'Bullying perspectives among rural youth: a mixed methods approach'

Increasing violence in youth is a perplexing problem. Those interested in solutions might just want to listen to the young people involved. Considering "bullying perspectives" is a good place to start, as illustrated by this article.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=923>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 19 May 2008

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

Partnerships in action: addressing the health challenge for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Viewpoint - Beyond *Sorry* — the first steps in laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians

Cancer care for Indigenous Australians

Survival of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders after a diagnosis of lung cancer: a matched cohort study

Racial disparities in infection-related mortality at Alice Springs Hospital, Central Australia, 2000–2005

Hospitalisations due to interpersonal violence: a population-based study in Western Australia

Hospitalisation for head injury due to assault among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, July 1999 – June 2005

Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition - The heart of the matter is, that it's a matter of the heart

Life b'long Ali Drummond (the life of Ali Drummond)

Navigating the process of developing a research project in Aboriginal health

Indigenous child health: urgent need for improved data to underpin better health outcomes

Oral health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

Effect of swimming pools on antibiotic use and clinic attendance for infections in two Aboriginal communities in Western Australia

The effect of passive smoking on the risk of otitis media in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in the Kalgoorlie–Boulder region of Western Australia
Heavy cannabis use and depressive symptoms in three Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory
Prevalence of and risk factors for hepatitis C in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adolescent offenders
Delivery of child health services in Indigenous communities: implications for the federal government's emergency intervention in the Northern Territory

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2008 GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CONFERENCE – HEALTH FOR ALL?

4 -6 June 2008, Hobart

The aim of this Conference is to address and reflect on what we have (and have not) done towards achieving the goal of Health for All. Keynote speakers will provide and challenge you with their take on: 1) Health for All? (with researchers, practitioners and policy makers); and 2) how to have a greater impact on improving primary health care.

Further information regarding the Conference, program, and workshop details are all available on <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2008>

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2008 Rural Health Symposium

5 - 7 June 2008

Wellington, New Zealand

Information at <http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/RHS08>

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From: Roger Strasser <Roger.Strasser@NorMed.ca>

Subject: ICEMEN Conference: 9-14 June 2008

Now is the time to register for ICEMEN (International conference Community Engaged Medical Education in the North) which takes place in Northern Ontario June 8 - 14. Presented jointly by Flinders University, Australia and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), Canada, this conference has "something for everyone". The first two days in Sudbury will focus on community based medical education program delivery; the middle day will be "medical education on the move" with on-site learning in several NOSM communities; and the final two days in Thunder Bay will be focused on rural clinical skills education, in collaboration with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada.

Full information is available through the conference website: <http://www.nosm.ca/icemen>

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Celebrate International Men's Health Week!

Each year, International Men’s Health Week is held (June 9-15th 2008) to raise awareness about a range of health issues that affect men in our community. International Men’s Health Week is an opportunity for the community to think about men and their health and provide the support and encouragement for men to make their health a priority. Andrology Australia provides a number of free booklets on a range of men’s health issues to help men understand when things go wrong. As part of International Men’s Health Week, Andrology Australia is encouraging men to put their health first for themselves and their family. It is important that men learn more about their bodies, visit a GP or think about their lifestyle to include regular exercise and healthy eating. Go to the Andrology Australia website for more health information and to enter the International Men’s Health Week competition. You could WIN a trip to Melbourne with two friends to play a round of golf with Ambassador Merv Hughes. Visit the Andrology Australia website, <http://www.andrologyaustralia.org> to enter.

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3rd Regional Perspectives Conference - ‘Understanding sustainable regions’

We all know location matters. People in different places work differently and live differently, yet all are part of the community of Australia. Research of the fundamental character and function of regions brings economics close to where we all live, identifies many key ‘people issues’ and allows new insights into the nation. If we don’t understand the regions where we live, how can we appreciate the bigger picture. This year’s theme will cover four main topics - new directions in regional policy, understanding community wellbeing, understanding economic fundamentals - growth, change and contrasts across Northern Australia, and climate shocks – understanding regional adaptation.

Keynote speaker, Professor Philip McCann, Professor of Economics, Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato, New Zealand, will speak on ‘Globalisation, Knowledge and Regions’. Eminent speakers include; Professors Ann Harding, John Handmer, Rolf Gerritsen and Andrew Beer, Dr Neil Barr and Messrs, Reg Howard-Smith, John Angley and the senior research team at BITRE led by Dr Gary Dolman.

BITRE’s 3rd Regional Perspectives Conference, ‘Understanding sustainable regions’ is to be held in the Mural Hall at Parliament House Canberra on 17 June 2008.

Further information is at <http://www.regionalperspectives.com.au/>

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From: McLean, Cherie <cherie.mclean@aihw.gov.au>
Subject: Australia's health 2008 conference

How are we going? How do we know?

Reserve your place for *Australia's health 2008* - the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's major biennial health conference providing insights into the health of Australia.

National Convention Centre - Canberra
Monday 23 June - Welcome Dinner
Tuesday 24 June - Conference

The program has been finalised and registrations are NOW open...

Guarantee your copy of *Australia's health 2008* - an essential reference and resource for all Australians with an interest in health, by registering for the conference.

Registration Cost \$440 (inc. GST)

Details at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/ah08/index.cfm>

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Success stories: *Environmental, social, emotional & spiritual health* of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

CRC for Aboriginal Health is co-hosting a 1 day satellite workshop of Population Health in Brisbane Sunday 6th of July. CRCAH Research Director Professor Ian Anderson will be presenting a Plenary session. For more information and registration details [view flier](http://www.crcah.org.au/events/downloads/Congress-08-Indigenous-health-wshop-rego-v3-2.pdf) at <http://www.crcah.org.au/events/downloads/Congress-08-Indigenous-health-wshop-rego-v3-2.pdf>.

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INAUGURAL RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM
6-8 July 2008, Brisbane

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

The Population Health Congress 2008 will be held on July 6-9 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.

The Population Health Congress 2008 is for everyone working in Population Health in Australia and New Zealand - abstracts will be accepted over the full range of public

health, health promotion and epidemiological topics.

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

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2008 Fulbright Symposium Emerging Leaders Forum 12 July 2008
Hosted by The CRC for Aboriginal Health and Flinders University, Adelaide

The mission of the Emerging Leaders Program is to inspire and motivate people who are emerging or potential leaders in their communities and who are committed to promoting healthy communities and building a prosperous country to take action to address health inequity and the social determinants of health in their own communities. Read more at <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/PublicHealth/fulbright/emergingleaders.htm>

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2nd NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE - "FROM BABIES TO BLOKES: THE MAKING OF MEN"

MAN, the Men's Advisory Network, Western Australia's peak men's organisation, will host their second national conference entitled 'from babies to blokes: the making of men' in Fremantle, Western Australia in August 2008. The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, wellbeing and other issues affecting males of all ages in Western Australia. With nine outstanding keynote speakers already confirmed, this conference will be an important learning experience for all those who work with men and boys. A new understanding of manhood is essential to improving the wellbeing of the whole community. We invite your participation. The Call for Papers is available online <http://www.promaco.com.au/2008/man/>

The Men's Advisory Network Inc. 2nd National Conference Fremantle, Western Australia Esplanade Hotel 3-6 August 2008

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Continence Awareness Week 3 to 9 August 2008
Website <http://www.continence.org.au>

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RANZCOG 2008 Australian Indigenous Women's Health Meeting

14-16 August 2008, Darwin

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is convening an Indigenous women's health meeting, with the aim of bringing together health professionals across the country with the common interest and desire to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. <http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/news.html#RAZ>

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9th INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

14-16 August 2008, Holiday Inn, Gold Coast.

The revised link for access to the conference website and for abstract submissions is

Conference website: <http://www.gcimh.com.au/conference/>

Abstract Submission http://astmanagement.com.au/gcimhforms/MH_Abstract.asp

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2008 SARRAH CONFERENCE

2008 National SARRAH Conference: Many Paddocks One Herd. 27-30 August 2008, Yeppoon, Central Queensland

Registrations are now open for the 2008 SARRAH Conference.

<http://www.sarrah.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=87530>

This conference is the peak opportunity for rural and remote allied health and oral health professionals to come together and present, discuss, debate and summarise the elements of their professional lives that bind them together.

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Insights & Solutions: 2nd International conference

INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS: the combined 2nd International Conference on Alcohol and Other Drug Related Brain Injury and the Brain Injury Australia National Conference 2008 (Melbourne, Australia, Monday 1 – Wednesday 3 September 2008). As you may already know, leading acquired brain injury organisations, arbias and Brain Injury Australia, have joined forces to bring you this exciting and informative three day event. The combined conference recognises the need for innovative approaches and improved practice in the field of acquired brain injury and this will feature throughout the conference program. The overarching theme, INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS, will provide a focal point for exploring all facets of acquired brain injury and presents an opportunity for people with acquired brain injury, their families and carers, clinicians, professional workers, researchers and policy makers to: -access cutting edge national and international research -drive education and prevention campaigns -build stronger treatment and support networks. Online registration is now open via this link

<https://www.secureregistrations.com/brain08/>.
For more information: <http://www.arbias.org.au> or <http://www.bia.net.au> or email
events@adf.org.au or phone (03) 9728 8137

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CRANA Conference 2008
Australia's Remote Health Challenge: Is Primary Health Care the solution?
11 - 14 September 2008
Cairns, Queensland
More information at <http://www.crana.org.au/cr.php?ID=9>

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2008 AIDA Symposium - Our Culture, Our Kids, Our Future
Saturday 4 October, 2008
Darwin
Information at <http://www.aida.org.au/news.asp?id=30>

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The 2008 School of Rural Health Research Conference
Chronic Disease Management in Rural Areas
16 October 2008
School of Rural Health, Shepparton, Victoria
More information at
<http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au/announcements/conference/index.htm>

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17th National Conference on Incontinence - 5 to 8 November 2008 – Grand Chancellor
Hotel, Hobart
Website <http://www.continence.org.au>

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ARNM's 2008 Annual Conference
Rural Nurses and Midwives: There's No Stopping Us Now
6 - 7 November 2008
Glenelg Adelaide, South Australia
More information at <http://www.arnm.asn.au/index.php?/content/view/62/99/>

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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
13 May 2008
No Budget surprises for rural health

While tonight's Budget reveals no surprises for rural health, the National Rural Health Alliance acknowledges that the Rudd government has honoured its election commitments to the bush.

The Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP) will receive an additional \$9 million over three years. There is also an additional \$5.9 million over three years for the Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme (SOLS) operating in rural areas, and an additional \$2.5 million over three years for clinical placement scholarships for allied health students.

Alliance Chair, John Wakerman, agreed rural people will benefit from these targeted investments which will help to improve access to services.

"We are particularly pleased to see the Government honouring its commitment to closing the gap in Indigenous health," Professor Wakerman said.

"These include investments in drug, alcohol and tobacco services, allocations for child and maternal services, and a useful investment in a National Indigenous Health Workforce Training plan. We are also pleased with the Government's focus on prevention.

"The \$10 billion Health and Hospitals Fund is a major announcement, but the Alliance can't get excited about it yet because we don't know what it will deliver for rural health," he said.

"The specific rural health measures, however, are really a continuation of an

incrementalist, piecemeal approach. We appreciate the policy work that is under way, but we shouldn't have to wait another 12 months. Country people are impatient to see something bold and beautiful for rural health.

“It is time for major investment in improved access to services for the almost seven million people who live in rural Australia. With the largest ever budget surplus as a share of GDP, eliminating health inequalities between the country and the city is achievable,” said Professor Wakerman.

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Media Release

11 May 2008

Rural health alliance honours nursing heroes

Tomorrow marks the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is widely acknowledged as the pioneer of modern nursing. With 12 May now universally acclaimed as International Nurses Day, the National Rural Health Alliance honours the 285,500 nurses and midwives who provide primary health care to the nation.

This year's commemoration theme is *Delivering quality, serving communities: Nurses leading primary health care*. Many nurses in outback Australia work in relative isolation, but love the special opportunities, variety and choices in remote and rural practice as they follow in the footsteps of the woman who came to be known to wounded soldiers in the Crimea as the 'Lady with the Lamp'.

Alliance Chair, Professor John Wakerman, has paid special tribute to the more than 70,000 nurses estimated to be working in rural and remote Australia.

“Nurses are the backbone of rural and particularly remote area health services and there are many who owe their lives to the commitment of this hardy band of unsung heroes.”

“They are an indispensable part of the rural and remote health workforce,” he said.

In October, 2006, Patrick Freeman and his family were rescued from a car accident on a remote stretch of road in the Northern Territory. His wife Inge, who was pregnant at the time, credits the attending nurse for saving her husband's life.

“Our injuries were correctly assessed and the right professional decisions were taken. She saved my husband and is our family's hero. Members of the Daly River Rescue Team and the clinic risked their lives to rescue us. We cannot properly express our gratitude and debt to them all,” she wrote in a letter to the Nauiyu Health Centre.

The Alliance is equally proud of the contributions made by its three member organisations that represent rural and remote nursing – the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia, Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives and rural members of the

Australian Nursing Federation – and takes this opportunity to say thank you to Australia’s nurses.