

**National Rural Health Alliance E-forum
25 April 2008**

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E-NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE: APRIL 2008

Submission to Australia 2020 Summit

The Alliance recently made a submission to the Australia 2020 Summit which can be found on our website under 'Publications', 'Submissions' -

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=58&IntCatId=6>

Here you will also find our Submissions on Geographical Differences in the Rate in which Victorian Students Participate in Higher Education; the audit of the rural and remote health workforce; and the review of rural and remote health service programs. We also currently preparing a submission to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on the Expansion of the Commonwealth Tertiary Scholarships Program; to the House of Representatives Inquiry into Obesity in Australia; as well as a Submission to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission.

Australian Journal of Rural Health

There is a free virtual issue of the AJRH on Indigenous health available by clicking this link: <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/loi/ajr>

Election of new friends Advisory Committee

Nominations are now being called for the friends Advisory Committee. Nominations close on 31 May 2008, after which an election will be held to select two representatives from each State/Territory. Members of *friends* can nominate

themselves or another *friend* they know may be interested.
If you have not rejoined for 2008 there is a membership form on the *friends* page of our website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Partyline #32 Out Now

If you are on our mailing list you should have recently received the latest edition of Partyline. Contributions for the next edition should be with the Editor by mid-May. Contributions can be sent to the Editor at partyline@ruralhealth.org.au
Electronic versions of Partyline are always available in the 'Publications' section of our website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/publications/?IntContId=57&IntCatId=6>

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.sarraah.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.

AHCRA Workshop 'Improving the Australian Health Care Agreements'

Proceedings of the recent Australian Health Care Reform Alliance Workshop on 'Improving the Australian Health Care Agreements' can be found on the following link: <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/projects/?IntContId=320&IntCatId=5>

Fortnightly eforum

To subscribe or contribute to the fortnightly eforum go to

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> - see link in the bottom left hand corner.

eforum is a moderated newsletter containing media releases, news and conference information from whomever has contributed to it. It is sent only to those people who have specifically subscribed to it from the front page of our website.

There is an archive of past eforums on the Alliance website:

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/eforumarchive/?IntCatId=19>

10th National Rural Health Conference

The 10th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Cairns on 17-20 May 2009. The Call for Abstracts will be announced in June 2008. Keep an eye on our website for up-to-date information about the Conference –

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

2008 Calendars

We still have copies of the 2008 calendar. If you would like some please contact us on 02 6285 4660, or email Ann Short at ann@ruralhealth.org.au and she will post them to you.

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BIG IDEAS ON THE RIGHT TRACK FOR IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH

Many of the big ideas raised at the 2020 Summit have the potential to make a positive impact on Australia's health system and, if translated into effective policy and implemented, could bring particular benefit to people living in rural and remote areas. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/media%20release.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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'EQUAL HEALTH BY 2020'

The National Rural Health Alliance called for the support of the Australian people – including delegates to the Canberra Summit – to embrace its vision for equal health for all by 2020. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/2020%20summit.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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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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RDAA STATEMENTS

Rural Health Inequity Must Be on 2020 Agenda

18 April 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20RELEASE%2018_04_08_agenda.pdf

Rural health workforce audit findings overdue

13 April 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20health%20workforce%20audit%20findings%20overdue%20--%20April%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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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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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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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 The conference is now calling for abstracts. Attached is the abstract submission information brochure and the submission form. Abstract submission has been extended until Monday 28th April 2008. 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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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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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON BROADBAND SOLUTIONS FOR REMOTE AREAS

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, has called for submissions on policy and funding initiatives to provide enhanced broadband to rural and remote areas. Submissions on remote broadband will be accepted in parallel to proposals to roll-out the National Broadband Network. Submissions should be addressed to remotebroadband@dbcde.gov.au and be received by 5.00pm AEST June 30. Any enquiries can be sent to the same email address. Senator Conroy's statement is at http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2008/025

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

HEART DISEASE HITS HARDEST IN RURAL AREAS (7.30 Report: 23/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/135553/614869/2881/0/>

PETROL SNIFFING ON THE RISE AGAIN IN ALICE SPRINGS: YOUTH WORKERS (Lateline: 18/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/135553/614869/2893/0/>

ABORIGINAL PRESCHOOLS AND TRAUMA (Life Matters: 24/04/2008)
A new voluntary initiative will see a crew of highly qualified mental health professionals offer their services to Aboriginal pre-schools in New South Wales.
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/135553/614869/2898/0/>

ACADEMIC FEARS CLOSING INDIGENOUS GAP COULD TAKE 100 YEARS (AM: 17/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2773/0/>

CONTRACEPTIVES ALLEGEDLY IMPLANTED IN ABORIGINAL GIRLS (The World Today: 16/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2774/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2775/0/>

INVESTIGATIONS INTO STOLEN GENERATIONS LEPROSY INJECTION CLAIMS (The World Today: 16/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2776/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2777/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2778/0/>

MOUNT ISA CHILDREN TESTING POSITIVE FOR HIGH LEAD LEVELS (The World Today: 16/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2779/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2780/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2781/0/>

NEW PHASE OF NT INTERVENTION AS KIDS GET HOSPITAL TREATMENT (Lateline: 14/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2789/0/>
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2790/0/>

CALLS TO REDUCE SMOKING RATES AMONG INDIGENOUS POPULATION (AM: 11/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2793/0/>

POISON SCARE FOR WORKERS IN NT INTERVENTION (Lateline: 11/04/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2795/0/>

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/130883/614869/2796/0/>

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\$6.5m PALLIATIVE CARE BOOST FOR RURAL AREAS

The Australian Government has announced funding of more than \$6.5 million - in the field of palliative care - to provide more coordinated care for rural Australians with a life-limiting illness. The full text of the statement by the Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot, is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-je-je039.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2008&mth=4>

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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Health behaviors and weight status among urban and rural children'
As obesity reaches epidemic proportions, new perspectives can be valuable. This urban versus rural comparison of fifth grade children does identify differences in nutrition, activity levels, and degree of obesity.
<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=810>

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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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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 7 April 2008
(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

From the Editor's Desk: Time for another medical revolution
An end to suppressing public health information
Another inquiry into public hospitals?
Ensuring the safety of new medications and devices: are naltrexone implants safe?
Unplanned admissions to two Sydney public hospitals after naltrexone implants
Metformin and lactic acidosis in an Australian community setting: the Fremantle
Diabetes Study
Impact of specialty on attitudes of Australian medical practitioners to end-of-life
decisions
Concordance between real-time telemedicine assessments and face-to-face
consultations in paediatric otolaryngology
Changes to the University of Sydney medical curriculum
Nationally consistent assessment of international medical graduates
The Royal North Shore Hospital inquiry: an analysis of the recommendations and the
implications for quality and safety in Australian public hospitals
Current use of Australian snake antivenoms and frequency of immediate-type
hypersensitivity reactions and anaphylaxis
The way we treat each other
Bystander basic life support: an important link in the chain of survival for children
suffering a drowning or near-drowning episode
Evidence into policy in Australian primary health care

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MORE HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS FAMILIES

The Government has announced the first sites for its expansion of Indigenous child and maternal health services, as well as 30 new Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships to help Indigenous health professionals studying child and maternal health. The health professionals will include child and maternal health nurses, Aboriginal health workers and other health professionals. The Puggy Hunter Scholarships will help Indigenous health professionals studying in the areas of child and maternal health in disciplines such as nursing, Indigenous health and allied health. The full text of the statement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr055.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2008&mth=4>

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Well Women's & Men's Sexual Health Workshop
28th April - 2nd May 2008
Liebig Building
Alice Springs Hospital

3 Days Theory and 2 Days Practical

Topics to be covered:
STI Management
Cultural Issues
Contraception
Cervical Screening
HIV Update
Hep's ABC
Chronic Disease Screening

Contact: Sandy McElligot - sandra.mcelligot@nt.gov.au

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CRIAH Aboriginal Health Research Conference 2008
Strong Foundations...Strong Future

The second CRIAH Aboriginal Health Research Conference will be held on April 29 and 30 at Dockside at Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney. Information at <http://www.saxinstitute.org.au/newsevents/EventItem.cfm?objid=754>

Enquiries:
The Sax Institute
PO Box 123
BROADWAY NSW 2007
Ph (02) 9514 5950
aboriginal.health@saxinstitute.org.au

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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 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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HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE, PORT FAIRY

Port Fairy is a historic seaside village located on the southwest coast of Victoria, known for music festivals and fine restaurants. With many pleasant cafes, art galleries and day spas, it is a charming and relaxing destination.

The conference is focused on mental health services and professional development workshops. It is an opportunity to meet mental health academics, practitioners, and colleagues working in rural health.

If you would like to conduct a half-day workshop at this conference, please contact Professor Prasuna Reddy, phone 03 5563 3501 or email director.hsr@greaterhealth.org

Registration details for the conference are on the website:
<http://www.greaterhealth.org/education-training/>

Enquiries: Ms Amanda Gaudion, phone 03 5563 3501, email: Amanda.Gaudion@greaterhealth.org

DATE: Monday 5 May – Wednesday 7 May 2008

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From: Anita Cromb <<mailto:Anita.Cromb@heartfoundation.org.au>>
Subject: Challenges in Cardiology VIII conference 9 & 10 May 2008

Challenges in cardiology VIII 'Prevention and management of cardiovascular disease'
9 - 10 May 2008

A joint conference of the Heart Foundation, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ), and the Queensland Cardiac Rehabilitation Association.

The 8th Challenges in Cardiology conference will be a significant date on the calendar in 2008. The one and a half day conference will provide an exciting and unique opportunity for health and medical professionals, nurses and students, medical researchers, industry and government to receive the latest information in various formats, including practical sessions, on the challenges and solutions to the

prevention, assessment, and management of risks associated with heart disease, both acutely and for secondary prevention.

Venue: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre, Herston, Queensland 4029

Topics will include:

Absolute risk - tools and implementation, updated hypertension guidelines, management of CVD (including biomedical and psychosocial risk factors), secondary prevention, Quality Use of Medicines, various workshops, and a panel discussion: *CVD - are we losing the battle?*

Day registration (Friday or Saturday) \$77 (earlybird \$55 before 11 April 2008)

Friday and Saturday (inc. cocktail function) \$132 (earlybird \$99 before 11 April 2008)

Cocktail function \$33 (earlybird \$22 before 11 April 2008)

The Heart Foundation has applied to the RACGP QA&CPD Program for Category 1 points (40 points) for this Activity.

For more information log onto our website <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au> and click on Queensland in the map of Australia.

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AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL ECONOMIES CONFERENCE 2008
11-13 May 2008
Terrigal, NSW

The program for AREC 2008 is now available at
<http://email.pmzmarketing.com.au/ch/11mjcpv/423639/78d841dfk.pdf>

The program includes inspirational keynote speakers and economic development experts.

For enquiries please call 02 4343 4400

Registration form at
<http://email.pmzmarketing.com.au/ch/11mjcpv/411410/78d84pxhf.pdf>

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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.

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: accfpp@bigpond.net.au
<http://www.relatehumanservices.com.au/events.htm>

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From: Rogan McMahon-Hogan <rogan.mcmahon-hogan@deafnessforum.org.au>
Subject: National Deafness Summit 08

The Deafness Forum of Australia is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for the 2008 National Deafness Sector Summit which will be hosted in Canberra 24-25 May 2008. These biennial summits are a fantastic opportunity for disability professionals, carers and the Deaf and hearing impaired community to learn about new developments in the sector, a chance to discuss issues, network and catch up with old friends. The previous summit held in Perth in 2006 was very successful, and we look forward to more success in 2008. Further information is available through the Deafness Forum Website <http://www.deafnessforum.org.au> or via email info@deafnessforum.org.au

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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, workshop details and the abstract submission process are all available on <http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2008>

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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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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.

Our 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.

This event is an important vehicle to provide the latest economic and social analysis

for our regions. Presented in a face to face environment, the sessions are designed to encourage discussion and debate.

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

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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.sarraah.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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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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17th National Conference on Incontinence - 5 to 8 November 2008 – Grand

Chancellor Hotel, Hobart

Website <http://www.continence.org.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 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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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
17 April 2008
'Equal health by 2020'

The National Rural Health Alliance has called for the support of the Australian people – including delegates to this weekend’s Canberra Summit – to embrace its vision for equal health for all by 2020.

Responding to the Prime Minister’s challenge for “one big idea” for developing a long-term national health strategy, the Alliance proposes the reshaping of Medicare to cover whichever health profession is able to provide consumers with safe, effective treatment at lowest cost.

Medicare reform would bring immediate benefits nationally, particularly for those in remote Australia unable to access Medicare due to the non-availability of a GP.

In its submission to the Summit the Alliance has called for fair consideration to be given to the more than seven million people who choose to live in rural and remote areas.

“Currently the 30 per cent of Australians who live in rural, regional and remote areas have worse health and less access to services than those who live in cities. Rural Australians have a fair claim to over 30 per cent of Australia’s domestic health resources,” said Alliance Chair John Wakerman.

“In rural areas health care is best provided by collaborative teams, each member doing what they do best to provide integrated continuity of care. Health consumers should be part of the collaboration – as the final arbiters of what is appropriate, safe and preferred by them.

“A new national rural health plan needs to consider the evidence as it relates to different models of service delivery for rural and remote areas in order to roll out improved services across the country,” Professor Wakerman said.

“This includes different methods of financing, interdisciplinary structures, adequate infrastructure, including health information systems, and improved governance and management.”

Prof Wakerman urged Government and community leaders to ensure the health and wellbeing of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people received national priority status, involving ‘whole of government’ in education, housing, other infrastructure, employment, community services, and legal and cultural affairs.

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Media Release

20 April 2008

Big ideas on the right track for improving rural health

Many of the big ideas raised at the 2020 Summit have the potential to make a positive impact on Australia's health system and, if translated into effective policy and implemented, could bring particular benefit to people living in rural and remote areas.

That is the view of the country's peak body for rural health, the National Rural Health Alliance.

Alliance Chair, John Wakerman, said the rural community will strongly support the movement to reduce health inequalities in 21st century Australia.

"Closing the mortality gap for the Indigenous population is a priority, as is closing the health gap between the city and the bush," said Professor Wakerman following the Summit.

"The Alliance supports the strong focus on prevention and making healthy choices easier," said Prof Wakerman.

"Fresh food is not only more difficult to obtain, but also more expensive in rural Australia. For those reasons we support increased availability of healthy food in schools and in remote communities."

The need for uniformity across jurisdictions was recognised by Summit participants. A 'new federalism for the 21st century' will be successful if it can remove the cost and blame shifting that is responsible for inefficiencies and inconvenience for both practitioners and consumers.

"National harmonisation as an overarching principle is a welcome recommendation and should be extended to the health sector to bring some consistency to patient travel schemes across jurisdictions, for example."

"Reform of the multiple health systems in Australia to provide a patient-centred health system with improved integration and continuity of care is of vital importance. Personal electronic health records and improvements in electronic health information systems are keys to achieving this goal," Prof Wakerman said.

"Evidence-based policy and equitable allocation of resources is long overdue and would bring benefit to the 30 per cent of people who live in rural Australia, but who do not currently receive 30 per cent of health and infrastructure resources. The rural community also demands to see a fair allocation of Australia's research efforts into

rural health issues and the translation of these into improved health outcomes.

“We also recognise the importance of linking across sectors. Health is linked to productivity and enhancing rural employment and education for kids from the bush. Provision of education and training opportunities for rural students will contribute to ameliorating rural workforce problems.”

The Alliance welcomes the government's participatory approach and looks forward to continuing consultation in the design and implementation of appropriate health services for the particular needs of diverse remote and rural communities.