

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 3 October 2008

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REPORT FROM NRHA COUNCIL

Because its members are scattered all over the country and very busy people, Council of the NRHA meets face-to-face only once a year. Its most recent meeting was from Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 September.

CouncilFest, as it is called, is comprised of several parts. There is teambuilding for members of the Council, many of whom have not met face to face before but know each others' voices well from teleconferences. This year they got to know each other better at a working breakfast during which they reflected on their personal reasons for being passionate about improving rural and remote health - and then moved on to some supervised glassmaking.

There followed a day or so of intensive and robust discussion of policy positions - taking their lead from discussion papers produced by staff. The topics canvassed were some of those you would expect in relation to rural and remote health: getting a fair share of the health dollar, ending the blame game, developing a national rural health plan, what to make of a revised classification system for rurality, and how to contribute to the sustainability of small rural and remote communities. Given the strategic reform opportunities underway at a national level, discussions of the Alliance's agreed position assumed even greater importance and urgency than normal.

Another element of CouncilFest is a day in Parliament at which members of the Council represent the Alliance in meetings with Parliamentarians. Prior to this, a number of consensus positions had been reached and several pre-existing priorities endorsed, including a call from the Alliance for an overhaul of rural health, with some systemic change and for a coherent plan to be developed for rural and remote health services.

The Alliance believes that one level of government should be responsible for health - and many rural people believe this should be the Commonwealth. The government would enter into specific agreements with regions/districts for the funding and delivery of rural and remote health services - providing both closer local decision-making as well as clearer national responsibility for overall standards in outcomes, activities and quality.

Not surprisingly the Alliance's specific proposals called for greater investment overall in rural and remote health, including in health-related infrastructure. Other perennial issues included urgent concern to see improved patients assisted travel schemes in the various jurisdictions, and the call for an integrated national rural undergraduate placement scheme.

The top four priorities where population health groups are concerned remain Indigenous health, oral and dental health, mental health and maternity services.

Other parts of CouncilFest saw a public symposium on aspects of national planning for rural and remote health, and the 17th Annual General Meeting. You can see and hear the papers to the Symposium on the Alliance's website.

The Board of the Alliance is headed by new Chairperson Dr Jenny May, a GP and academic from Tamworth in New South Wales.

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OCTOBER E-NEWS FROM THE NRHA

NRHA in Parliament House

Council of the NRHA met with the Australian Health Minister, the Shadow Minister and other Parliamentarians at the end of September. The Alliance's key message was the need for systemic change in the health sector and for a coherent national plan for rural and remote health. The Alliance believes that one level of government should be responsible for rural health, with specific agreements with regions/districts for the funding and delivery of rural and remote health services - and with those regions/districts required to meet standards relating to outcomes, activities and quality.

Review of maternity services

Health Minister Nicola Roxon has launched a discussion paper and review of maternity services. People in rural and remote areas will be pleased to know that the range of issues to be considered includes the poor access to maternity services for rural women. Over 100 maternity services in rural and regional areas have closed in the last decade and the matter is of significant concern to the Alliance and its Member Bodies. A series of roundtable consultations is being held in

October. The discussion paper itself and details of the intended review are available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website.

National planning in the rural and remote health sector

Visit the 'public seminars' page on <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> to see and hear all the presentations to this Symposium held by the NRHA in Canberra on Monday 22 September 2008. Speakers were John Wakerman, at the time Chairperson of the Alliance; Rob Knowles from the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission; Pat Anderson, Chairperson of the Cooperative Research Centre for Indigenous Health; Tony Hobbs, Chair of the External Reference Group for the National Primary Health Care Strategy; Tony McBride, CEO of the Health Issues Centre, on consumers' engagement with rural and remote health services; and Bruce Simmons on some of the rural and remote challenges in oral and dental health.

CouncilFest

The Alliance has just convened the annual face-to-face of its Council. CouncilFest provides the opportunity for busy Council members from around the country to meet each other, to meet with Alliance Staff, and to be involved in meetings with the Minister and other Members of Parliament. It is a time of intensive discussion, debate and decision making regarding the key issues that impact on rural health. Not surprisingly, the priority issues included Indigenous health, oral and dental health, mental health and maternity services. Given the strategic reform opportunities underway at a national level, the discussions this year assumed even greater importance and urgency than normal.

17th AGM

In conjunction with CouncilFest, the Alliance held its 17th Annual General Meeting, at which its new Board was elected. New Chairperson is Dr Jenny May, a GP and academic from Tamworth in New South Wales. Deputy Chair is Sophie Heathcote, an experienced remote areas nurse and now Lecturer at the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health in Dubbo. Other office bearers are Pauline Wardle from Alice Springs and Owen Allen from the Atherton Tableland.

10th Conference

Planning is underway for the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns, 17-20 May 2009. More than 400 abstracts were received by the closing date (3 October) and work is continuing with the Conference Advisory Committee on program, administrative, arts-in-health and funding aspects of the event. Remember that *friends* of the Alliance have a discounted registration fee to attend the Conference so now would be a good time for you to join up. You can find a membership form on the *friends*' page of the Alliance's website. *friends* has a new Advisory Committee and an election has just been held for its new Chairperson, who will become a member of Council of the Alliance.

Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarships (RAMUS)

The RAMUS application round for 2009 will open on 4 November and close on 19 January 2009. The application form will be available online at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> after 4 November. Contact RAMUS on 1800 460 440 or email ramus@ruralhealth.org.au.

Australian Journal Rural Health

A themed virtual issue of the AJRH featuring 22 articles on mental health is now available free to subscribers. Others will have access to the abstracts for each article and will be able to access articles through their institution or log-in to Wiley InterScience and pay to read articles in full. The Table of Contents can be viewed at www.blackwellpublishing.com/vi.asp?ref=1038-5282 AJRH 16 (5) (October 2008) has an editorial on occupational therapy practice in rural and remote South Australia, and includes articles on physical activity among young people in the Torres Strait, oral health status and dental treatment for Indigenous adults in the Kimberley, and Royal Flying Doctor Service field days.

Other key policy work

The Alliance will be producing a submission to the Department's review of classification systems (RRMA etc). It will continue to promote the case for a National Rural Health Plan to take the place of Healthy Horizons. It is working on a position paper on the sustainability of small rural and remote communities. PATS remains an important issue for follow-up and action. The Alliance is also giving priority attention to work for improved oral and dental health in rural and remote areas and is pleased to note Minister Roxon's keen interest in the matter.

Rural Health Workforce Roundtable

The Alliance is working with the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, Rural Health Workforce Australia, SARRAH, the ANF and other bodies on the next meeting of the Rural Health Workforce Roundtable. It will be held in Canberra, probably in the first week of December.

Please keep in touch with us on all things rural. <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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From: Gareth Wreford

Subject: Response by 3 Nov - National Government Arts Disability Health Ageing Education Employment Strategy Discussion Paper

A discussion paper on developing a National Arts and Disability Strategy was released by Cultural Ministers Council. It is available for download on the CMC website at http://www.cmc.gov.au/working_groups/national_arts_and_disability_strategy_working_group/national_arts_and_disability_strategy in Word, HTML PDF and MP3 audiovisual formats. A printed brochure version, Auslan interpreted captioned DVD, Braille and large-print versions are also available.

Submissions will be open until 3 November 2008. The email address for submissions is arts.disability@environment.gov.au. Other contacts are detailed in the paper.

Executive Director
Arts Access Australia
91 Canal Road
Lilyfield NSW 2040
T 02 9518 0561 Mon / Tue / Thu

F 02 9560 9035
M 0419 201 338 Wed / Fri
E ed@artsaccessaustralia.org
W <http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org>

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10th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
17-20 May 2009, Cairns, Qld

The need to rectify the health imbalance between people living in rural and remote Australia and those in urban areas, involve communities in managing their health while celebrating successful rural service models, are among topics for discussion at the 10th National Rural Health Conference to be held in Cairns.

More than 1,000 delegates from the rural and remote health sector are expected to attend the event from 17-20 May 2009.

Further Contact:
Lyn Eiszele - Conference Manager: (02) 6285 4660
Marshall Wilson - Media: 0419 664 155
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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SYMPOSIUM - CREATING CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN TRAINING DELIVERY IN
REMOTE AND RURAL AUSTRALIA

Tue, Nov 18th, 2008, 5:00pm- 4:00pm

What does the Skilling Australia for the Future Policy initiative mean for rural and remote Australia and how can we make it work? 18 and 19 November 2008, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darwin

The Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council (CS&H ISC) invites you to this special symposium to discuss the real issues around building and sustaining skills development in rural and remote areas through exploration of the challenges and opportunities provided by the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. The symposium will bring together a range of influential stakeholders from industry and VET to ask the hard questions around meeting industry demand for skills development in the bush and examine the Commonwealth Government's Skilling Australia policy and its ability to deliver real outcomes for rural and remote Community Services and Health Industry enterprises.

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

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RDAA STATEMENTS

Extra nursing places a boost for the bush

30 September 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Nursing%20places%20--%20September%202008.pdf

Rural doctors extremely saddened to hear of attack on Dr Mukesh Haikerwal

29 September 2008

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/RDAA%20media%20release%20SOLS%20extended%2026Sept08-%20Final.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.

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October 2008 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Occupational therapy practice in rural and remote South Australia

Profile of occupational therapy practice in rural and remote South Australia

Influences on medical students' decisions to study at a rural clinical school

Geographical variation of incidence of cutaneous melanoma in Queensland

Physical activity of young people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Region: An exploratory study

The oral health status and treatment needs of Indigenous adults in the Kimberley region of Western Australia

Subjective well-being, sociodemographic factors, mental and physical health of rural residents

Increasing community participation in an Aboriginal health service

Health knowledge acquisition by rural women with chronic health conditions: A tale of two Web

approaches

Royal Flying Doctor Service 'field days': A move towards more comprehensive primary health care

Improving mental health capacity in rural communities: Mental health first aid delivery in drought-affected rural New South Wales

Short Report - Rurability: Community support for rural families managing acquired brain injury Grazings

Community work injuries: Country style

PHC RIS: Health for all or health for some? Remembering Alma Ata : 'Health for All' 2008 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference

From the Journal Associates - SARRAH: Provision of allied health services to regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

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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From: Clair North

Subject: It Takes a Village - 26 min. documentary

Presented by Ms Julie McCrossin

Produced by Rural Health Education Foundation

Funded by Philanthropic Groups

Tuesday 14th October 8.00pm Sydney time (AEDT) -

Friday 17th October 12.30pm (Repeat)

http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=336&group_id=5

This documentary illustrates the belief that strong communities and support networks are essential to the effective functioning of families, and help them to provide a safe and healthy environment for their children.

The program features three filmed case studies of interventions that aim to reduce isolation and build stronger networks and communities. They include a program for young mothers in Mildura, Vic; a workshop on fathering in Nowra, on the south coast of NSW; and a community-building project in Kalumburu, an Indigenous community in Western Australia. The program will be of interest to GPs, nurses, allied health professionals, Aboriginal health workers, youth officers and community workers.

For further information visit the Foundation website <http://www.rhef.com.au>

RHEF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

Tuesday 14 October, 8 pm

817: It Takes a Village

Channel 4

Friday 17 October, 12.30 pm

817: It Takes a Village

Channel 23

Tuesday 21 October, 8 pm

818: The Doctor of the Future: Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Channel 4

Tuesday 21 October, 8.30 pm

819: Wide Horizons: Health Students Get Out of Town

Channel 4

Friday 24 October, 12.30 pm

818: The Doctor of the Future: Interview with Professor Des Gorman

Channel 23

Friday 24 October, 1 pm

819: Wide Horizons: Health Students Get Out of Town

Channel 23

Tuesday 28 October, 8 pm

820: Sleep and Health: A Wake-up Call

Channel 4

Friday 31 October, 12.30 pm

820: Sleep and Health: A Wake-up Call

Channel 4

Tuesday 11 November, 8 pm

821a: Step by Step: Indigenous Kids 6-12 yrs

Channel 4

Friday 14 November, 12.30 pm

821a: Step by Step: Indigenous Kids 6-12 yrs

Channel 23

Tuesday 18 November, 8 pm
822: Sugar in the Bush: Rural and Remote Diabetes
Channel 4

Friday 21 November, 12.30 pm
822: Sugar in the Bush: Rural and Remote Diabetes
Channel 23

Tuesday 25 November, 8 pm
821b: Deadly Steps: Indigenous Youth
Channel 4

Friday 28 November, 12.30 pm
821b: Deadly Steps: Indigenous Youth
Channel 23

Tuesday 9 December, 8 pm
823: The Journey Back: Rehabilitation After Stroke
Channel 4

Friday 12 December, 1.30 pm
823: The Journey Back: Rehabilitation After Stroke
Channel 23

Tuesday 16 December, 8 pm
611: Clinical Toxicology: Bites and Stings
Channel 23

Friday 19 December, 12.30 pm
611: Clinical Toxicology: Bites and Stings
Channel 23

Tuesday 27 January 2009, 8 pm
901: A is for Asthma: Managing Asthma in Primary School Kids
Channel 4

Friday 30 January 2009, 12.30 pm
901: A is for Asthma: Managing Asthma in Primary School Kids
Channel 23

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Partyline 33 is out now! The August edition includes reflections from Tom Calma on the current challenges in Indigenous health, a report on the National Survey of Adult Oral Health, a look at the progress of health reform, articles on rural optometry, nursing and research, student reports on rural experiences, as well as readers' stories and latest news from *friends* of the Alliance.

Partyline is available in hard copy and online - go to <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>, then to Publications, then *Partyline*.

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

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

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

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

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Perspectives on Regional Australia: Population Turnover, 2006 (ABS 1380.0.55.005)

Census data are used to create estimates of population turnover at the Statistical Local Area (generally, local government area) geographic level. SLAs are then ranked according to these estimates, and other Census data are then used to identify any similarities in the characteristics of the twenty highest and twenty lowest turnover SLAs.

The population turnover for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) across Australia varied from 174.1% for City - Remainder (in Darwin, the capital city of the Northern Territory) to 7.5% in Angurugu (CGC), (on Groote Eylandt island off the coast of the Northern Territory, in the Gulf of Carpentaria).

Details at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1380.0.55.005?OpenDocument>

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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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AIHW REPORT

Decade of change in general practice - older doctors older patients, bigger practices, fewer scripts

It's not only the patients in GP surgeries who are getting older, according to two new reports released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Australian General Practice Statistics and Classification Centre.

Details are at the AIHW website, <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

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AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER ONLINE

The Australian Organ Donor Register is Australia's only national organ and tissue donor register and serves as a lifeline to the people on the organ transplant waiting lists. Register online at <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp> to be an Australian Organ Donor now!

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GOVERNMENT RECEIVES REPORT ON SOCIAL IMPACTS OF DROUGHT

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke has announced that he has received the final report from the independent expert panel looking at the social impact of drought. Mr Burke said he would take the time to consider the report before it is released to the public and the Government provides a response.

The full text of the Minister's announcement is at

http://www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2008/september_2008/government_receives_report_on_social_impact_of_drought

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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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CLOSING THE GAP FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has agreed to six ambitious targets for closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across urban, rural and remote areas:

- * to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation
- * to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- * to ensure all Indigenous four years olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years
- * to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade
- * to halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020
- * to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

The full COAG Communique is available at

http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2008-10-02/index.cfm

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Beating the blues in the Riverina

ABC Local Radio and ABC Riverina hosted a Depression Awareness Night on Tuesday 7 October, looking to address this often-ignored but surprisingly common condition.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/depressionawareness/default.htm>

LISMORE DOCTOR UNDER NSW HEALTH SCRUTINY (PM: 06/10/2008)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/277773/614869/5491/0/>

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/277773/614869/5492/0/>

Indigenous health study reveals sport's significance

A Townsville researcher says he has proven the importance of sport to Indigenous men's health.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/07/2383813.htm>

Doctors' group backs outback hospital reprieve

The Rural Doctors Association has welcomed a reprieve for a small hospital in Queensland's central west.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/07/2383683.htm>

Indigenius Doctors' Association i laikim mo Aborigine dokta

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/tokpisin/news/stories/200810/s2382706.htm>

Understanding rural depression more important than football: Kennett
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200810/s2381308.htm>

Claims Indigenous community doctors drastically underpaid
<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2380766.htm>

Skills shortage contribute to rural depression
A shortage of GPs and psychiatrists in rural communities in Tasmania is being blamed for a lack of improvement in the number of people suffering from depression and anxiety.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/02/2380400.htm>

DRINKING PROBLEM WORSE UNDER FEDERAL INTERVENTION: KATHERINE MAYOR (AM: 29/09/2008)
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/270521/614869/5373/0/>

INDIGENOUS DOCTORS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS (Life Matters: 30/09/2008)
The Australian Indigenous Doctors Association celebrates 10 years this week, and in that time their numbers have trebled. But there are still only 125 Indigenous doctors in Australia. To truly reflect the population, there should be 1,000. Life Matters spoke to Dr Alex Brown, who leads the Centre for Indigenous Vascular Research at the Baker Heart Institute in Alice Springs.
<http://abcmail.net.au/t/270521/614869/5386/0/>

'People power' needed for intervention sustainability
Dr Glasson says the Federal Government needs to spend more money on getting more people working out in the communities. (ABC) A former member of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Taskforce (NTERT) says people power holds the key to the sustainability of its future.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/30/2378179.htm>

The Northern Territory Health Minister says the Australian Medical Association must take responsibility for the critically low levels of doctors in Central Australia. The health department has been forced to stop its routine doctor visits to community health centres in Central Australia as of Friday.
<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/news/stories/200806/s2286207.htm>

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Welcome to the sixteenth edition of Gwalwa-Gai, the newsletter for the CRC for Aboriginal Health
<http://www.craah.org.au/communication/Enews/Gwalwa-Gai16/gwalwagai16.html>

This Issue:

Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research talks to Gwalwa-Gai
CRAAH Submission to Health & Hospitals Reform Commission
How will we know when we've closed the gap? Improving mortality data
'I'm an Aboriginal Dad' project supports Indigenous families and Communities

Two important new books launched with CRCAH assistance
Prisoner Health Report launched
Passing of a local hero - Vale Michelle Torrens
Innovation Review Paper Identifies Aboriginal Health as a Priority
Health research careers for young Murrumbidgee
SA program helps heal family violence
We Can Like Research... In Koori Hands - New report from Onemda
Water in remote Aboriginal communities
Transferring social and emotional wellbeing research
Improving the patient journey
COAG sets 'close the gap' targets
Anangu woman asks "Will you listen to us?"
Men's business at Indigenous women's health meeting
New Law and Justice Body - another step in reducing disadvantage
Eye problems among Indigenous peoples account for 1 in 30 hospitalisations: AIHW
UN Declaration will benefit Indigenous health
Remote Australia a 'failed state', says report
AIATSIS offers visiting fellowships and scholarships
New Aboriginal appointment to Charles Darwin University
Bonnie Babes Foundation seeks medical committee volunteers

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 6 October 2008
(Available at <http://www.mja.com.au/>)

From the Editor's Desk: The training tsunami
Editorials

Topical ophthalmic medications: what potential for systemic side effects and interactions with other medications?

Subspecialisation in surgery and the continuing challenge of providing emergency surgery services

Research

Quality of Australian clinical guidelines and relevance to the care of older people with multiple comorbid conditions

Helicobacter pylori eradication: a novel therapeutic option in chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura

Medicine and the Media

Mixed messages and a missed opportunity: Australian news media coverage of Clare Oliver's campaign against solarium

What impact would effective solarium regulation have in Australia?

Clinical Practice - Documentation of clinical review and vital signs after major surgery

Health Care Reform - Policy is easy, implementation is hard

Position Statement - Management of bronchiectasis and chronic suppurative lung disease in Indigenous children and adults from rural and remote Australian communities

Review - Quality and consistency of clinical practice guidelines for diagnosis and management

of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee: a descriptive overview of published guidelines

Lessons from Practice

Misdiagnosis of acute eye diseases by primary health care providers: incidence and implications

A case of melancholic depression induced by α -blocker antiglaucoma agents

Snapshot - Severe bilateral papilloedema secondary to a large primary brain tumour

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RURAL SERVICES PROMINENT ON WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

To mark World Mental Health Day, the Rudd Government has announced a number of initiatives, including an investment of \$30.5 million in improving rural and remote mental health services. This funding, over three years, will help ease the barriers faced by people living in rural and remote areas accessing mental health services by funding 24 organisations to provide mental health services for people living in 25 rural and remote areas, with a focus on drought-affected areas and areas of high need.

Another measure is the refocusing of ATAPS to better complement other fee-for-service programs and to address service gaps for people in particular geographical areas and population groups. This includes a trial of telephone-based therapy in rural and remote areas and increased support and referral pathways for GPs to manage patients at risk of suicide.

The full statement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr132.htm>

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RELEASE OF NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE HEALTH TASKFORCE PAPER - AUSTRALIA: THE HEALTHIEST COUNTRY BY 2020

The life expectancy of children in Australia today could be cut by two years if current levels of obesity and overweight continue, the National Preventative Health Taskforce has warned. Facts like this underline the urgency and importance of taking preventative action to ensure a healthy future for all Australians.

The National Preventative Health Taskforce has released a discussion paper to kickstart debate, an important step towards developing a National Preventative Health Strategy. The Taskforce proposes a number of targets which it says can be achieved by 2020, and outlines options for reform.

The Taskforce will now accept public submissions, before delivering its National Preventative Health Strategy to Government in mid-2009.

The paper and three comprehensive technical reports on obesity, tobacco and alcohol are at <http://www.preventativehealth.org.au>. There is also an online submission form available there. Anyone who is interested in contributing feedback can do so at this website up to 2 January

2009. In addition, consultations will be held in each capital city and a number of regional areas in late 2008 and early 2009 and will involve local health professionals, consumer groups, state and local governments and industry.

The full statement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-nr-nr133.htm>

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National Nutrition Week - "Falling In Love With Food" 12 - 18 October

Topics such as asthma, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, depression. Topics such as fitness, nutrition, drugs, preventing suicide, health insurance, women's health, living with a disability. Includes links to State/Territory Health Services and other services.

[http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/National Nutrition Week Falling In Love With Food 12 18 October 2008](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/National_Nutrition_Week_Falling_In_Love_With_Food_12_18_October_2008)

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ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

12-18 October 2008

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

JOIN IN ANTI-POVERTY WEEK 2008

Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. One of the Week's focuses this year is on the relationship between health and poverty. Its main aims are to:

- * strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship
- * encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

The website <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au> includes basic fact sheets, promotional material, a calendar of activities and links to other sources of info and ideas.

Contact 1300-797-290 or apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

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National Preventive Health Summit

15-16 October 2008

Swissotel Sydney

Information at: tel (02) 9080-4090, info@iir.com.au

<http://iir.com.au/nphs/dm>

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WA HEALTH CONFERENCE 2008 - OUR HEALTH, OUR FUTURE

You are invited to submit an abstract to be considered for a presentation and/or poster display at

the WA Health Conference 2008 to be held from 15 - 17 October 2008 at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

The theme of this year's conference is Our Health, Our Future. What will our healthcare needs be in 2020 and beyond? Who will be working in WA Health? What jobs will they be doing? What are we doing, or can we do, today to lay the foundations for the healthcare system of the future?

Conference web site <http://www.wahealthconference.health.wa.gov.au>

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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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You are invited to attend the 2008 Rural Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program Forum
16 and 17 October 2008
Forster Tuncurry Memorial Services Club
Abstracts should be submitted by 30 July 2008 to
Hunter.BrainInjuryUnit@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au
[http:// www.health.nsw.gov.au/birp/bird.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/birp/bird.html)

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The biennial ACRRM Scientific Forum will be held at Brighton Beach, Sydney 23-26 October 2008. This promises to be ACRRM's largest conference to date, comprising workshops, academic presentations and the AGMs of ACRRM and RDAA.
Details at <http://www.acrrm.com.au/>

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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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NACCHO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NACCHO will be holding our Annual General Meeting from 11 to 14 November 2008 at Cable Beach Club Resort, Broome Western Australia. For further information please contact Elaine Lomas on 02 6248 0644 or by email to elaine@naccho.org.au.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE WOMEN'S HOSPITALS AUSTRALASIA
'Minding our P's and Q's! Partnerships and Quality in Women's Healthcare'
Wed 19 November - Friday 21 November 2008
Manly Pacific Hotel Sydney NSW
<http://www.wcha.asn.au>

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

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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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