

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 17 April 2009

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GOOD NEWS ON BROADBAND: BUT DON'T FORGET THE 3 PER CENT

The news of a major government-led broadband initiative to provide 'fibre to the home' is excellent news for families and businesses in rural and remote areas. It is especially pleasing that the capacity of such a system to help with health services in rural and remote areas has been highlighted in the announcement. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/media%20release%208%20april%202009.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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

The 10th biennial National Rural Health Conference, to be held at the Cairns Convention Centre from 17-20 May, will seek to identify how people living in rural and remote areas are coping with the threats and opportunities they face. It will highlight both the serious challenges those people face and their resilience at a time when ecological issues remain serious and when the fiscal and financial environment has changed beyond recognition.

Promoting Cairns as "The Place to Be" the organisers have been under pressure to fit into the program the many threads, topics and research reports which this biennial event brings together. The result is a program rich in content and variety that is now accessible at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

The packed program will feature 18 keynote addresses from leaders in the health sector, as well as researchers and political identities. About 120 of more than 350 papers submitted for consideration will be delivered in concurrent sessions, interspersed with eight lengthier participatory workshops. Workshop topics include the role of the health sector in mitigating the effects of climate change; setting an Australian rural ethics agenda; and drought, drying and rural mental health. There will be a strong arts-in-health stream, with the North Queensland organisation Arts Nexus curating events.

The previous two biennial conferences each attracted more than 1,000 delegates and the organisers, led by the NRHA, are expecting similar registration numbers. "It's good to have the Conference back in Queensland after 18 years away and even better to have it in North Queensland - the first time in the tropics," said Atherton-based physiotherapist and conference convenor, Owen Allen. "We'll roll out a warm welcome and then get down to the serious business of making sure that the political change underway in the health sector provides some of the answers we've been looking for in rural and remote areas," Mr Allen said.

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

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RESEARCH GRANTS TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH - APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 APRIL 2009

The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation in Queensland is calling for applications to compete for two seeding grants of \$5,000 each to support health-related research relevant to practice and policy in Australia.

The closing date for applications is 30 April 2009.

For details and the application form to go
http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/quicklinks/infront_outback_grant.pdf

For the associated media release go to
http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/research_grants_on_offer.pdf or see below

Please circulate to researchers in your network.

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From: Janelle Webb
Subject: Polo Ralph Lauren Pink Pony Campaign- applications for Seeding Grants

Applications now open for seeding grants to improve local breast cancer care

Community groups, volunteer organisations and health providers in regional, rural or remote areas are invited to apply for a seeding grant of up to \$10,000 to fund innovative and

sustainable new projects that improve access to support local women with breast cancer.

Information on how to apply for a seeding grant, and the application form can be found on National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre's website

<http://www.breasthealth.com.au/pinkpony>

Seeding Grant applications close Wednesday 13 May 2009.

Please contact National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre directly if you require information:

Phone: 02 9357 9414, Email: janelle.webb@nbocc.org.au

Janelle Webb

Project Assistant

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre

Level 1, Suite 103, 355 Crown Street SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Telephone + 61 2 9357 9414 Facsimile + 61 2 9357 9477 <http://www.nbocc.org.au>

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CALLING ALL RURAL PHARMACISTS IN AUSTRALIA

The services provided by rural and remote pharmacists are vital to the health and well-being of their communities. Yet despite multiple incentive programs, the shortage of pharmacists in rural and remote Australia continues to be a major problem.

As a result RhED Consulting Pty Ltd, commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, is undertaking a landmark Australian national rural research project on rural workforce issues specific to pharmacy.

Our aim is to understand what fulfils and motivates a pharmacist to work and stay in rural practice so we can ensure rural Australians continue to receive the best access to pharmacists and the services they provide.

If you are a rural pharmacist or pharmacy student, please help by filling out a short survey and/or participating in a focus group or interview. Visit <http://www.rhed.com.au/pharmacy> for more details or to access surveys online by the end of June.

Contact Dr Janie Smith, Director of RhED Consulting Pty Ltd at janie.smith@rhed.com.au / (02) 6680 3998.

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Partyline #35 is now on-line at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>. It is a special edition highlighting the key events and activities of the forthcoming 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns. The Conference will run from 17-20 May. Partyline 35 contains information on speakers, concurrent sessions, pre-conference workshops and networking opportunities for *friends* of the Alliance. There is news about the *Community skills workshop* to be held on Sunday 17 May before the Conference begins.

Partyline 35 was produced in collaboration with *beyondblue* - the national depression

initiative, and contains a double-page spread on addressing the psychological aftermath of a bushfire or other natural disasters, and ways to cope psychologically with the economic downturn.

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STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO STAY RURAL

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the recipients of the Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme 2009. Thirty-five students from across the country were awarded the prestigious scholarship which provides them with up to \$40,000 during their time at university. The Guild's statement is at

http://www.pharmacynews.com.au/articles/Students-encouraged-to-stay-rural_z476804.htm

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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. The Australian Journal of Rural Health is published on behalf of the National Rural Health Alliance by Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd 155 Cremorne Street Richmond Vic. 3121 Tel: +61 (0)3 9274 3100 Fax: +61 (0)3 9274 3101 E-mail: melbourne@johnwiley.com.au

April 2009 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Making good research useful: Another step on the journey

Original Articles

Four years after graduation: Occupational therapists' work destinations and perceptions of preparedness for practice

Workers compensation and occupational health and safety in the Australian agricultural industry

Health behaviours of young, rural residents: A case study

Gender, socioeconomic status, need or access? Differences in statin prescribing across urban, rural and remote Australia

Generational attitudes of rural mental health nurses

Need for syphilis screening and counselling in HIV counselling and testing centres: A curtain raiser study from north India

Short Reports

Factors influencing the practice choices of Australian medical students: A feasibility study

Meeting rehabilitation service needs in rural and remote Australia: A focus group workshop with rehabilitation service health care providers

Grazings

PHC RIS: Practice nurses - Enhancing primary health care services in rural Australia

Life and ageism

Book Review - A Textbook of Rural Health

From the Journal Associates
Wide-ranging policy work at the National Rural Health Alliance
ARNM: Merger between the Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives and Royal College of Nursing, Australia

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

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RURAL COMMUNITIES TO LOSE DOCTORS UNDER RUDD PLAN: COALITION

The Rudd Government has again fuelled speculation that current incentive payments to attract and retain rural Doctors will be scrapped in the upcoming May Budget, according to Opposition Health and Ageing spokesperson, Peter Dutton MP. Mr Dutton's statement is available at <http://www.liberal.org.au/news.php?Id=2931>

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RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS (From <http://www.rhef.com.au/upcoming-programs/>)

Helping Children with Autism
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Produced by Rural Health Education Foundation
Tuesday 28th April 8.00pm (AEST) -satellite television broadcast

This program discusses diagnosis, early intervention, appropriate referral and the access to services both in the preschool and school years.
Early intensive educational and behavioural intervention in the preschool years has been shown to produce positive outcomes for children and is vital to equip children with the skills needed to participate in school. The minimum requirement for early intervention is 20 hours per week over 2 years for a child to make significant gains. A recent national Government initiative has increased access to early intervention funding aimed at providing appropriate and adequate access to services and assistance to children and their families. Appropriate school placement is a priority for children and families and ideally is determined by the needs and strengths of each child, however in rural and remote areas this is more often than not determined by choice.

Follow this link http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=356 for information on how to view this program.

All past programs are available for viewing or listening on our website
<http://www.rhef.com.au>

The Rural Health Education Foundation can be contacted by telephone 02 62325480 or email rhef@rhef.com.au

Tue 28 Apr 8 pm 907: Helping Children With Autism Channel 4
Fri 1 May 12.30 pm 907: Helping Children With Autism Channel 23
Tue 12 May 8 pm 910a: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 1 Channel 4
Fri 15 May 12.30 pm 910a: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 1 Channel 23
Tue 26 May 8 pm 908: Mulling It Over: Cannabis Intervention in Primary Health Care Channel 4
Fri 29 May 12.30 pm 908: Mulling It Over: Cannabis Intervention in Primary Health Care Channel 23
Tue 9 Jun 8 pm 909: Women in General Practice Channel 4
Fri 12 Jun 12.30 pm 909: Women in General Practice Channel 23
Tue 16 Jun 8 pm 910b: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 2 Channel 4
Fri 19 Jun 12.30 pm 910b: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 2 Channel 23

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REPORT ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES 2009: INDIGENOUS COMPENDIUM

The Productivity Commission Report on Government Services 2009 - Indigenous Compendium, was released on 9 April 2009 and produced by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP). It contains all Indigenous data reported in the Report on Government Services 2009. The Compendium is available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/compendium2009>

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POLICY NEWS

Challenges to relapse prevention: psychiatric care of indigenous in-patients
Tricia Nagel, Carolyn Thompson and Neil Spencer / Australian Network for Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health
Relapse is one of the major contributing factors to the high burden of disability of mental illness. Strategies for relapse prevention are needed. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be over-represented in mental health care nationwide. Partnerships between Aboriginal Mental Health Workers (AMHWs) and non-Indigenous health professionals can assist in provision of culturally appropriate in-patient care and promotion of self-management and relapse prevention strategies.
http://www.apo.org.au/linkboard/results.shtml?filename_num=272647

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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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NEW CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ABORIGINAL HEALTH TO MARK WORLD HEALTH DAY

The Rudd Government will provide \$2.5 million to establish a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health at the University of New South Wales. The full text of the announcement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon is at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-nr-nr038.htm>

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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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COUNTRY AUSTRALIA WINS WITH NEW BROADBAND NETWORK - CONROY

Rural and regional Australia will be big winners from the Rudd Government's National Broadband Network, according to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy.

"The National Broadband Network will deliver on our election commitment to provide broadband speeds of 12Mbps to all Australians, no matter where they choose to live or work," Senator Conroy said.

Senator Conroy's statement is at <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0409/msoit080.php>

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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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BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

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

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

AMA still looking for regional doctor boost

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) says it would welcome talks with the Federal Government about ways to attract more doctors to rural and remote areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/15/2542998.htm>

Call for alcohol rehab model rollout across NT

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress wants its alcohol rehabilitation model applied to remote communities across the Northern Territory.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/australian-news/5501545/alcohol-rehab-model-rollout-nt/>

Federal Government silent on future of rural doctor retention scheme

The Federal Government will neither confirm or deny whether it plans to remove a program designed to keep doctors in rural areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200904/s2543452.htm>

Turnbull weighs into rural doctor retention scheme speculation

Federal Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull says rural areas will suffer if the Government decides to cut an incentive scheme designed to attract doctors to the bush.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/14/2542603.htm?section=justin>

Expert denies intervention linked to increase in childhood anaemia

The doctor advising the Northern Territory Aboriginal Medical Services says a key health indicator in Indigenous children did not improve in the six months since income quarantining was introduced.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/09/2540414.htm>

Poor health blamed on NT intervention

The intervention in the Northern Territory has had some strident critics. Now, a medical service east of Katherine is saying there's evidence that child health is suffering as a direct result of it, and is citing soaring anaemia levels among Indigenous children.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2540206.htm>

Foetal alcohol syndrome a serious concern

An Indigenous health service in the east Kimberley in Western Australia says the issue of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is not being taken seriously enough by the federal and state governments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2008/s2540437.htm>

Doctor says health checks should follow asbestos checks

A doctor says remote community residents may need special follow-up to see if they have contracted asbestos-related illnesses.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/09/2539247.htm>

Rural men more likely to die dangerously

A nationwide study is underway to find out why men in rural areas of Australia are 20 percent more likely to be hurt or killed in a preventable accident than their city counterparts.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200904/s2537993.htm>

Broadband plan promises 'better medical services'

A northern Victorian health organisation says the Federal Government's proposed broadband network will lead to better medical services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/08/2538158.htm>

Children's hospital rejects regional care criticism

Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital says children in country areas are treated the same as patients from the city. The Australian Paediatric Society has accused the hospital of becoming increasingly disconnected from regional Victoria.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/08/2538098.htm>

Aboriginal oral health partnerships launched

A consortium of Aboriginal community controlled health organisations from centres including Walgett, Bourke, Orange and Wellington will launch two oral health partnerships today.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/06/2535490.htm>

Roxon urged to see hospitals first-hand

A group of the region's doctors and specialists has invited federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon to tour western New South Wales hospitals.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/06/2535460.htm>

New RFDS base to allow more doctors

Clyde Thompson from the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) says Broken Hill's new \$4 million base will allow six more doctors to work in the region.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/03/2533869.htm>

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RDAA NEWS

GPs call for health stimulus (United General Practice Australia media release)

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/UGPA%20media%20release%20--%20letter%20to%20Prime%20Minister%20--%20April%202009.pdf

15 April 2009

Rural doctors urge Government -- build on, don't axe, critical support programs

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Rural%20doctors%20urge%20Government%20--%20build%20on,%20don't%20axe,%20critical%20support%20programs%20--%20April%202009.pdf

14 April 2009

Keeping Safe in Rural and Remote Australia Symposium

http://www.rdaa.com.au/uploaded_documents/Keeping%20Safe%20Symposium%20backgro under.pdf

9 April 2009

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 6 April 2009

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

From the Editor's Desk: The e-health personal record

Editorials

Cycling and health: an opportunity for positive change?

Making sense of differing bowel cancer screening guidelines

Postcard from New York - The high cost of drugs in the United States

Research

Bicycling injuries and mortality in Victoria, 2001-2006

Use of gastrostomy tubes in older Western Australians: a population-based study of frequency, indications and outcomes

Access Block

Access block: it's all about available beds

Access block can be managed

Myths versus facts in emergency department overcrowding and hospital access block

Interventions to circumvent intensive care access block: a retrospective 2-year study across metropolitan Melbourne

New Drugs, Old Drugs - The direct factor Xa inhibitor rivaroxaban

Notable Cases - *Chromobacterium violaceum* endocarditis and hepatic abscesses treated successfully with meropenem and ciprofloxacin

Viewpoint - Pertussis prevention and treatment: a call for wider access to azithromycin

Diagnostic Dilemma - "My foot hurts": a flare of rheumatoid arthritis?

Letters

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

Isoniazid hypersensitivity in a child

Curtain cords and accidental childhood hanging

Health information privacy and patient safety

Rational thromboprophylaxis in medical inpatients: not quite there yet

What is the health service for?

Effect of smoking among Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers on preterm birth and full-term low birthweight

Supplement - Depression and anxiety with physical illness - Contents

Snapshot - Black bones: a case of incidental discovery of ochronotic arthropathy

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From: Nysha Thomas

Subject: Consumer Research Forum

Cancer Council NSW will be conducting a Consumer Research Forum on Thursday 14th May 2009. The Forum will be held from 8:30am to 12noon in a Sydney CBD location. The

aim of the forum is to identify an agreed set of NSW cancer consumer research priorities across the cancer control spectrum (from prevention through survivorship and bereavement). Involving consumers in research priority setting has been shown to support funding agencies to reconcile the different needs and agendas of researchers and the wider community, and to result in more balanced funding of pragmatic (research that directly addresses a relevant patient or health system need) and explanatory research.

Nysha Thomas
Project Officer Research Strategy and Scientific Development Unit
Cancer Council NSW
PO Box 572
KINGS CROSS NSW 1340
153 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
Tel: +612 9334 1993 Fax: +612 9356 3866 Email: nyshat@nswcc.org.au
Website: <http://www.cancercouncil.com.au>

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From: Al Parmeter
Subject: Community Skills Workshop, Sunday 17 May 2009

The 10th National Rural Health Conference will be held in Cairns 17-20 May 2009. You can find everything you need to know about the Conference on the conference website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

As part of the Conference we are holding some pre-Conference events. One in particular that may interest you or your colleagues is the Community Skills Workshop. This workshop will provide delegates with a range of skills to use in their own communities.

The Workshop on the Sunday is free for 10th Conference delegates, students and those not in the paid workforce.

Registrations can be made online via the Conference website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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Keeping safe in rural and remote Australia - what does this mean?

A symposium for female professionals working in rural and remote Australia Sunday 17 May 2009, 9.30am - 3.30pm prior to the 10th National Rural Health Conference - Cairns Convention Centre

Join us at the *Keeping Safe in rural and remote Australia* symposium to consider the critical issue of occupational violence in rural and remote Australia. The aim of this important and timely symposium is to identify 'concrete' actions and activities that will make our rural and remote communities safer places for people to live and work. It will consider the impact violence has on recruitment and retention and look at ways to develop practical strategies to reduce violence against female professionals.

A strong line up of speakers and panellist has been included on the program, including:

- * Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing and Queensland Senator
- * Dr Michael Flood PhD, a leading researcher into the prevention of violence against women and current Research Fellow at La Trobe University's Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society
- * Kathy Rynders, Deputy Commissioner Queensland Police
- * Carole Taylor, CEO Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA)
- * Lee Thomas, Assistant Federal Secretary Australian Nursing Federation (ANF)
- * Paige Bousen, Queensland Teachers Union
- * Dr Jenny May, Chair of RDAA's Female Doctors Group and Chairperson of the National Rural Health Alliance
- * Dr Sue Page, Director of North Coast Medical Education Collaboration, a rural GP and former RDAA President

The Keeping Safe symposium is the latest in a series of successful RDAA biennial rural health symposiums. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia, the Australian Nursing Federation and the Police Federation of Australia have joined with RDAA to present the Keeping Safe symposium. Evidence to date shows violence in the workplace is more prevalent in rural and remote areas than urban ones. Studies have also shown professional women in rural and remote settings are more likely to experience violence than their counterparts in metropolitan settings.

For more details and information on how to register visit the website of the 10th National Rural Health Conference: <http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/?IntContId=38> Registration cost: \$55

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From: Alan Staines
 Subject: 2nd Australian Postvention Conference

As Chair of the Conference Organising Committee and Director of The Salvation Army Hope for Life Program - I invite you to attend and participate at the 2nd Australian Postvention conference that is being held at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre commencing Thursday, 21st - Saturday, 23rd May 2009.

The conference "Connectedness - A Link to Hope" provides a wonderful opportunity for delegates throughout Australia and New Zealand to network and share together their experience and knowledge.

We are privileged to have international guests and invited Australian speakers who are well known in Australia and internationally for their research and practice in postvention. International and Australian presenters include Prof Ian Webster, Prof Graham Martin, Dr Judith Murray, Dr Sheila Clark, Dr Frank Campbell, Dr Michelle Linn-Gust, Dr Kari Dyregrov, Dr Scott Poland, Prof Onja Grad and Darrell Henry (indigenous psychologist).

The conference will bring together family and friends who have been bereaved by suicide; the indigenous, teachers, youth workers, social workers, mental health professionals, general practitioners and medical personnel, clergy, emergency services personnel, researchers, service providers and funeral service personnel.

The Postvention Conference Healing and Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Saturday afternoon. The Ceremony is a unique event that is the heart of the conference and provides an opportunity for individuals, families, friends and conference delegates to come together in strength, light and community to share and be supported in our grief as we honour and remember our loved ones and connect through Living Hope.

For further information conference program registration, visit conference manager's website at <http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au> and <http://www.suicideprevention.salvos.org.au>

Alan Staines, OAM (Envoy)
Director, The Salvation Army Suicide Prevention - Bereavement Support Services

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National Palliative Care Week - 24 - 30 May 2009
<http://www.palliativecare.org.au>

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From: jayne.lkaeland@racp.edu.au
Subject: Rural and Remote videoconference: "Cultural Security" An Indigenous Perspective

Rural & Remote videoconference: "Cultural Security" A Indigenous Perspective. RACP, AFRM
Date: 29th May 2009 Time: 2.00pm (Darwin Time)
Base Site: Royal Darwin Hospital
Open to all Rehabilitation Specialists, students, trainees.

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9th WONCA RURAL HEALTH WORLD CONFERENCE
June 12-14, 2009
Heraklion, Crete, Greece
<http://www.ruralwonca2009.org/>

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National Motor Neurone Disease conference
Sydney, June 23
A limited amount of travel grants may be available for NSW registrants
The website url is <http://www.mndnsw.asn.au/htmdocs/conference.htm>

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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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General Practice & Primary Health Care Research Conference 2009: Driving Change
15-17 July, Melbourne VIC

This conference is a must for anyone with an interest in primary health care research, evaluation and development. It will provide essential opportunities for researchers, decision makers, practitioners and consumers to share ideas, form collaborations and network with speakers and other delegates.

<http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2009>

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Catholic Health Australia 2009 National Conference - Hand in Hand Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart, 17 - 19 August 2009 <http://www.cha.org.au/>

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7th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care
6-9 September 2009
Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney

<http://www.aaqhc2009.org.au>
aaqhc2009@tourhosts.com.au

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The Rural Medicine Australia 2009 Conference

Conference Hosts:

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 is the tenth annual conference jointly hosted by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA). This year, we welcome the participation of the Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDVA) and the National Rural Medical Family Network.

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 will present outstanding opportunities for doctors and other health professionals working in rural and remote medicine to connect with colleagues, learn new skills, share their knowledge - and enjoy a brief respite from the pressures of work.

The conference sessions and workshops will emphasise practical skills and knowledge with immediate application to the demands of rural medicine. The conference welcomes other professionals - including allied health workers and government representatives - who share the commitment to quality health care for Australians living in rural and remote communities.

Rural Medicine Australia 2009 will run from Thursday, 29 October to Sunday 1 November 2009 in Melbourne.

Information available at <http://www.acrrm.com.au/>

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Year of the Blood Donor 2009

An anticipated doubling of demand for blood and blood products within 10 years has led the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to launch a nationwide recruitment drive in 2009 Year of the Blood Donor. The Blood Service is appealing for more than 100,000 new blood donors this year, in addition to the 40,000 who registered across Australia to give blood in the week after the Victorian bushfires.

http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/news/Year_of_the_Blood_Donor_2009

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Healing Our Spirit 2010

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and researchers are advised to start planning now for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide The Sixth Gathering, which is due to take place on the island of Honolulu in Hawaii from 3 to 10 September 2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW) is to celebrate the diverse and unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health is a proud supporter of and committed participant in the gathering, which will be hosted by native Hawaiian healthcare organisation Papa Ola Lōkahi (<http://www.papaolalokahi.org>).

Event organisers are now accepting abstracts, presentations and proposals for the sharing of cultural practices and performing arts. These need to be submitted by 8 September 2009 via the link on the home page of the HOSW website (<http://www.hosw.com>).

For more information:
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Mick Gooda - CEO, 0409 688 403

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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

8 April 2009

Good news on broadband: but don't forget the 3 per cent

Yesterday's news of a major government-led broadband initiative to provide 'fibre to the home' is excellent news for families and businesses in rural and remote areas. It is especially pleasing that the capacity of such a system to help with health services in rural and remote areas has been highlighted in the announcement.

Dr Jenny May, Chair of the National Rural Health Alliance, said the 28-member body has been a long-time advocate for broadband connections to be available to all rural and remote communities, where the health benefits would be significant.

"Often in the past when plans for improved information and communications technology have been hatched, they appear to have been designed to provide better services to 97 per cent of the Australian population," Dr May said.

"The implication seems to have been that the 3 per cent of people who live in more remote places, or areas that may be difficult to service, would have to miss out. We trust this will not be the case with this plan."

"The Alliance has noted the Prime Minister's reference to the new network connecting 90 per cent of schools, homes and workplaces with fibre-to-the-premises - and that it will "connect all other houses and businesses in Australia with next generation wireless and satellite technologies that will deliver broadband speeds of 12 megabits per second.

"This plan will be truly "nation building if it succeeds in connecting all homes, businesses and health services in Australia, irrespective of their location, to high-speed broadband," Dr May said.

"But it will remain necessary to have special plans for 'difficult to service' areas to make sure they don't fall behind when further technological developments occur."

The Alliance also recognises the great potential value of universal access to high speed broadband for rural, regional and remote businesses. The development of Australia's inland regions and towns is something the Alliance has strong hopes for, and access to fast broadband would provide underpinning support for this.

The Alliance also welcomes the immediate investment to be made in 'backbone fibre optic transmission links' which will improve communications choice and services in regional areas.

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Media Release

10 April 2009

Research grants to improve rural health

The Toowoomba Hospital Foundation in Queensland is calling for applications to compete for two seeding grants of \$5,000 each to support health-related research relevant to practice

and policy in Australia.

Jointly sponsored by the Cunningham Centre, 'Infront Outback' grants allow researchers to start preliminary work, develop further knowledge and undertake relevant fieldwork in relation to a rural and remote health topic.

Proposals must focus on a specific project to be conducted in a rural or remote setting and the successful applications will have the potential to increase the understanding of a significant rural health issue.

The proposals should demonstrate local community or health authority support. Nomination forms and details of entry criteria can be found on the National Rural Health Alliance website at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

Applicants should submit a nomination form and attach details of the proposed project. Preference will be given to applications from novice researchers. The closing date for applications is 30 April. The names of the two successful applicants will be announced at the 10th National Rural Health Conference, being held in Cairns from 17-20 May.

In addition to the 'Infront Outback' research grants, the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation is also preparing to make the Louis Ariotti Memorial Award, named in honour of the legendary Charleville practitioner who gave 43 years of dedicated service to the bush. Dr Ariotti died last year.

The biennial Memorial Award is designed to recognise innovation and excellence in the areas of health research, policy, leadership, workforce issues and service development in rural and remote areas.
