



Delegates agreed a set of nineteen priority recommendations covering major change to the structure of the health system, a national rural health plan, climate change and a range of more specific matters. These will inform the future policy and advocacy agendas for organisations in the rural and remote health sector, including the NRHA.

Download the Priority Recommendations (81 KB pdf) from the 10th National Rural Health Conference at

[http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/recommendations/docs/PRIORITY\\_RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf](http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/recommendations/docs/PRIORITY_RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf)

#### Full Set of Conference Recommendations

The National Rural Health Alliance is collating all of the recommendations from delegates at the Cairns Conference - some 250 or more in all. This full set provides a valuable record of people's thinking on rural and remote health as at May 2009. The full set of conference recommendations will be available soon.

#### Conference Media Releases

Conference media releases are reproduced below, and are available at

\* Lessons from rural Canada for rural Australia -

[http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/tepper\\_opening\\_final.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/tepper_opening_final.pdf)

\* Workforce support and telehealth: hope for the future? -

[http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/paul\\_lucas\\_final.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/paul_lucas_final.pdf)

\* Regional engagement: a key to rural health -

[http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/regional\\_engagement\\_final\\_weds.pdf](http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/regional_engagement_final_weds.pdf)

\* "It's the social determinants, stupid!" -

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/social%20determinants%20final%20weds.pdf>

\* A fertile time for health reform -

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/a%20fertile%20time%20for%20health%20reform.pdf>

An interesting overview of the Conference is on the Crikey health blog, entitled "What rural health can teach the rest of us" at

<http://blogs.crikey.com.au/croakey/2009/05/25/what-rural-health-can-teach-the-rest-of-us/>

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#### CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=2>

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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.



3101 E-mail: [melbourne@johnwiley.com.au](mailto:melbourne@johnwiley.com.au)

June 2009 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - 'A fair go' in rural areas: What progress since 1991?

Review Article - Sixteen years on: Has quality of care for rural and non-compensable traumatic brain injury clients improved?

Original Articles

Funding for rural health research from the Australian Research Council: A missed opportunity?

The frontline and the ivory tower: A case study of service and professional-driven curriculum

Loss of income and levels of scholarship support for students on rural clinical placements: A survey of medical, nursing and allied health students

Relationships between body fatness, small-screen sedentary activity and regionality among schoolchildren in Victoria, Australia

Stress and help-seeking for drought-stricken citrus growers in the Riverland of South Australia

Promoting mental health care in a rural paediatric unit through participatory action research

Adults with intellectual disability in regional Australia: Incidence of disability and provision of accommodation support to their ageing carers

Short Report - Exploration of the preconceptions of living in a rural community by general practitioner registrar partners

Letter to the Editor - Trichiasis: Out of mind, out of sight

From the Journal Associates - Providing a voice for rural nurses and midwives: Rural Nursing and Midwifery Faculty, Royal College of Nursing Australia

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

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#### CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE CONTRIBUTES TO 1 IN 10 DEATHS

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) was a factor in nearly 10% of all deaths in Australia in 2006, and more than a million hospitalisations in 2006-07, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Chronic kidney disease is especially common among Indigenous Australians. 'One factor could be the higher rates of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians,' Ms Ryan said. Indigenous Australians are six times as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to receive dialysis and kidney transplants. Death rates from CKD for Indigenous Australian men and women were seven and 11 times those of their non-Indigenous counterparts.

The AIHW statement is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090527.cfm> and the full publication is at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10681>

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

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







Aboriginal people.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/27/2581624.htm>

Remote NT health services gain staff

The Northern Territory Department of Health has appointed new primary health care staff to coordinate remote services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/27/2581897.htm>

Web-based training to increase epilepsy awareness

Epilepsy Queensland says the nation's first web based teaching program will mean rural and regional health workers will not miss out learning about the illness.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/25/2580046.htm>

Indigenous people 'living longer'

New figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show Indigenous life expectancy is longer than previously thought.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/25/2580089.htm>

Town camps takeover 'sends mixed messages'

The Federal Opposition has accused the Government of sending mixed messages to Indigenous communities over the Northern Territory intervention.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/24/2579310.htm>

Return of Discrimination Act return 'may not be enough'

A human rights lawyer says Federal Government moves to reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act may not go far enough.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/22/2578047.htm>

Compulsory welfare quarantining under pressure

The Federal Government has flagged changes to the Northern Territory Intervention that could see people opt out of compulsory income quarantining.

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2008/s2578347.htm>

Students doctors to get regional practice

Medical students will soon be placed in towns and rural communities on the mid-north New South Wales coast as part of a training program.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/21/2576624.htm>

BIG POLICY SHIFT FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES (PM: 20/05/2009)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/474097/614869/9776/0/>

Roxon defends eye surgery rebate cuts

The Federal Government is showing no signs of backing away from plans to cut the Medicare rebate for cataract surgery.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/20/2576304.htm>

Aboriginal communities 'will suffer from cataract rebate cut'

Ophthalmologists say pensioners and Indigenous people will be among the hardest hit from a Federal Government decision to halve the Medicare rebate for cataract operations.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/18/2573804.htm>

Indigenous homelands 'reap health benefits'

Researchers say they have found the first medical evidence that Indigenous Australians living and working on their traditional homelands are significantly less likely to develop diabetes and chronic kidney and heart disease.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/18/2573341.htm>





In reply: Health experts reject industry-backed funding for alcohol research - Trish M Worth

Rapid online publication, 11 May 2009

Letters: Health experts reject industry-backed funding for alcohol research - Miller et al

Letters: Alcohol taxation policy in Australia: public health imperatives for action - GH Mooney

Letters: Alcohol taxation policy in Australia: public health imperatives for action - HJ Teede

Letters: Alcohol taxation policy in Australia: public health imperatives for action - N Awofeso

For Debate: Alcohol taxation policy in Australia: public health imperatives for action - A statement by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Rapid online publication, 1 May 2009

Update on swine influenza: A pandemic that's not bird flu? Pigs might fly

Notice from the Chief Medical Officer, 1 May 2009

Urgent information from the AMA on swine influenza for medical practitioners

Current issue: 18 May 2009

Editorial- A healed and healthy country: understanding healing for Indigenous Australians

Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition - Antecedents of chronic kidney disease in Aboriginal offenders in New South Wales prisons

Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Art Exhibition - Growing more Aboriginal health professionals: the 2009 Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Art Exhibition and show Mind the Gap

Asthma in Indigenous Australians: so much yet to do for Indigenous lung health  
Avoidable hospitalisation in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory

How do pregnancy outcomes differ in teenage mothers? A Western Australian study

"Closing the gap" by 2030: aspiration versus reality in Indigenous health

Prevention and Promotion

Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nutrition and health

The role of energy cost in food choices for an Aboriginal population in northern Australia

Lipid treatment guidelines and cardiovascular risk for Aboriginal people in Central Australia

Knowledge and attitudes regarding smoking during pregnancy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Adult health checks for Indigenous Australians: the first year's experience from the Inala Indigenous Health Service

Linking Indigenous health care with school education

Communication, Culture and Health

Healthy country, healthy people: the relationship between Indigenous health status and "caring for country"

Barriers to participation of Aboriginal people in cancer care: communication in the hospital setting

Capacity to Care

Indigenous medical workforce development: current status and future directions

Coronary heart disease events in Aboriginal Australians: incidence in an urban population

Outcomes of cardiac surgery in Indigenous Australians

Timing of transfer for pregnant women from Queensland Cape York communities to Cairns for birthing

Middle ear disease in Aboriginal children in Perth: analysis of hearing screening data, 1998-2004

Improving Indigenous patients' access to mainstream health services: the Inala experience















