

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 12 June 2009

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NEW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS, RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP will be appointed Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery. According to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, as a proud resident of Alice Springs, Minister Snowdon is a tireless advocate for Australians living in rural and remote areas. The full text of the Prime Minister's announcement is at http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2009/media_release_1056.cfm

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MINISTERIAL FOCUS: AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC STEP FOR RURAL HEALTH

The appointment for the first time of a Minister for Indigenous, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Service Delivery it is an important strategic recognition of the special needs and circumstances facing people in Australia's rural and remote communities. People in the bush will expect this position to be part of a permanent increase in the Government's commitment to rural communities.

In welcoming Minister Warren Snowdon to the new position, Dr Jenny May, Chairperson of the NRHA, said the appointment will be important both for substantive policy reasons and to boost the place of rural issues on the political agenda.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20minister%20for%20rural%20health%207%20june.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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RURAL HEALTH CHAMPION HONOURED

The National Rural Health Alliance salutes its Executive Director, Gordon Gregory, who was awarded an OAM in this weekend's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The full text of the Alliance statement is at

<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/mr%20rural%20health%20champion.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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10th NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The 10th National Rural Health Conference was held in Cairns from 17–20 May 2009.

10th Conference Communiqué

The coherence and potential strength of the rural and remote health sector were again demonstrated through the 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns. Over 900 delegates attended the event and provided Minister Nicola Roxon and the Government with some clear directions and encouragement for change at what the Minister herself described as "a fertile time for health reform" in Australia.

Delegates agreed that genuine engagement with communities at the regional level was required to enable the sector to meet its objective of equal health for people in rural areas. There were strong focuses on the social and economic determinants of health and the health impacts of climate change. Health workforce issues were also a high priority, with agreement about the need for greater 'equivalence' of support across the professions and speedier adoption of new health professional roles.

Download the 10th National Rural Health Conference Communiqué (85 KB pdf) at <http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/recommendations/docs/COMMUNIQUE.pdf>

Priority Recommendations

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

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 available at:

* Lessons from rural Canada for rural Australia -

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

* Regional engagement: a key to rural health -

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>

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CLICK TO GIVE FREE MAMMOGRAMS

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

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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 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns.

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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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

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

Tue 16 Jun 2009 8 PM 910b: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 2: Living with Ovarian Cancer, Palliative and End of Life Care Channel 4

Fri 19 Jun 2009 12.30 pm 910b: Caring for Women with Ovarian Cancer, Part 2: Living with Ovarian Cancer, Palliative and End of Life Care Channel 23

Tue 14 Jul 2009 8 pm 911 4

Fri 17 Jul 2009 12.30 pm 911: End of Life Care Channel 23

Tue 28 Jul 2009 8 pm RPT 816: Open Wide: Oral Health in the Bush Channel 23

Fri 31 Jul 2009 12.30 pm RPT 816: Open Wide: Oral Health in the Bush Channel 23

Tue 11 Aug 2009 8 pm 912: A Program on Men's Health Channel 4/Live Webcast

Fri 14 Aug 2009 12.30 pm 912: A Program on Men's Health Channel 23

Tue 25 Aug 2009 8 pm 913a: T2DM Guideline Series: Primary Prevention, Case Detection and Diagnosis Channel 4/Live Webcast

Fri 28 Aug 2009 12.30 pm 913a: T2DM Guideline Series: Primary Prevention, Case Detection and Diagnosis Channel 23

Tue 22 Sep 2009 8 pm 913b: T2DM Guideline Series: Blood Glucose Control, Patient Education in Type 2 Diabetes Channel 4/Live Webcast

Fri 25 Sep 2009 12.30 pm 913b: T2DM Guideline Series: Blood Glucose Control, Patient Education in Type 2 Diabetes Channel 4/Live Webcast

Tue 13 Oct 2009 8 pm 913c: T2DM Guideline Series: Diabetic Retinopathy, Chronic Kidney Disease

Fri 16 Oct 2009 12.30 pm 913c: T2DM Guideline Series: Diabetic Retinopathy, Chronic Kidney Disease Channel 23

Tue 10 Nov 2009 8 pm 913d: T2DM Guideline Series: Diabetes and Indigenous Australians Channel 4/Live Webcast

Fri 13 Nov 2009 12 am 913d: T2DM Guideline Series: Diabetes and Indigenous Australians Channel 23

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BOOSTING LONG-TERM REGIONAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

In a strategic move expected to have significant positive impacts on long term health outcomes of communities in the central and far western regions, Vice-Chancellor and President Ian Goulter yesterday announced a \$6 million expansion of the University's health education programs at Charles Sturt University in Orange. Under the plan, Charles Sturt University will offer two new degrees in Orange in 2010: *Physiotherapy* and *Health and Rehabilitation Science*. The University will admit 40 students to the new Physiotherapy program and 20 students to the new Health and Rehabilitation Science program in 2010. The aim is to increase the intake for the Health and Rehabilitation Science Course to 50 students a year.

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/latestnews.cfm?itemID=8A30C3B3C0502A3BFAE1F009C7CB441D&printtemplate=release>

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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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HOPE FOR HEART DISEASE PATIENTS IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA

A Monash University-led study has shown that heart disease patients received a great deal of benefit from advice and support given over the telephone compared to those patients who did not receive telephone support. Patients living in rural and remote areas of Australia who had access to the "Chronic Heart failure Assistance by Telephone" (CHAT) service were one-third less likely to die or need hospital treatment.

<http://www.monash.edu.au/news/newline/story/1450>

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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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REDUCING THE LONGEVITY GAP FOR ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

(Extract from Ideas@TheCentre, cis@cis.org.au)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has announced that it has reduced the longevity 'gap' for Indigenous Australians from 17 years to 11.5 years for men and 9.7 for women. But both the old and the new figures are averages for very disparate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups that rely heavily on data for the more than 60% of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders who work in mainstream jobs and who own, are buying, or commercially renting their houses. Although still skewed toward lower socio-economic strata, like other aspiring social groups like migrants, this group probably has similar longevity experience to other Australians. As more Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders vote with their feet to work in the mainstream, average longevity is rising, but that says nothing about settlements on communal land in crowded Aboriginal association housing, where the absence of property rights and education denies them employment and condemns them to welfare dependent life-styles that lead to early death. The real longevity 'gap' between these communities and the rest of Australia is probably still more than 20 years.

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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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HEALTHY FARMERS ONLINE PROGRAM NOW ACTIVE

(Extract from Queensland Country Life, 11/06/2009)

An innovative Healthy Farmers website and online health assessment program which aims to demystify health issues for people on the land is now live on the web.

Healthy Farmers is a partnership between farm group AgForce and Ford Health Australia which was formed after recognition of the growing health pressures on farmers and rural communities. AgForce training manager Wendy Allen said the Healthy Farmer Program was designed to raise awareness of preventative health and wellness in farmers across Australia.

The full article is available at <http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/agribusiness-and-general/general/healthy-farmers-online-program-now-active/1538232.aspx>

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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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NACCHO NEWS

Dedicated Minister for Aboriginal Health welcomed

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO, the peak body for Aboriginal community controlled medical services says the appointment of a minister with specific responsibility for Indigenous health within the health portfolio is a major step forward.

<http://www.naccho.org.au/Files/Documents/09-6-6%20Welcome%20dedicated%20minister%20for%20Aboriginal%20health%20Media%20Release.pdf>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Message Stick - Talking Stick: Health

1:30pm Sunday, 14 Jun 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/guide/netw/200906/programs/IP0805H019D14062009T133000.htm>

Western Qld medico appointed as rural doctors president

A doctor who has worked for almost two decades in the state's western communities is the new president of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ).

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/11/2595159.htm>

Qld towns 'will struggle to keep hospitals open'

A committee set up to save a small hospital in Queensland's central-west says it believes other rural towns will struggle to keep their hospitals open.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/11/2595087.htm>

Caring for cancer in the country

Travel to any country town and you will find people and their families struggling with cancer.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2008/s2594866.htm>

Aboriginal health workshops start today

A new program targeting Aboriginal health, domestic violence and support for young men starts in Deniliquin today.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/10/2594050.htm>

Rural doctors fear Qld country hospitals to close

The Rural Doctors Association (RDA) says it fears small country hospitals in Queensland could be closed as part of the State Government's plans to improve health services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/10/2594037.htm>

Indigenous, rural health portfolio 'a good thing'

Remote doctors have welcomed the creation of a Federal Government portfolio dedicated to Indigenous and rural health.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/09/2592776.htm>

Snowdon to spearhead rural health reforms

The Federal Government has moved to improve health services in regional Australia by setting up a new portfolio specifically focused on the issue.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200906/s2592034.htm>

New portfolio to focus on closing the gap

The new portfolio for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery has brought the spotlight back on the Government's closing the gap Indigenous health policy.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/08/2591880.htm>

Queensland doctors say maternity wards should reopen

Doctors in Queensland say the state government should reopen the doors to 11 maternity units in country hospitals over the next five years.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200906/s2591991.htm>

Health agreement to lengthen Indigenous life expectancy

An agreement will be signed today between the North Coast Area Health Service and the Many Rivers Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/05/2590127.htm>

Adolescent NT health service 'must be set up'

A former nurse at a remote central Australian Aboriginal community said an adolescent health service should be set up in the Northern Territory.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/05/2590390.htm>

CONCERNS FOR FUTURE OF A MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM ON THE NSW NORTH COAST (PM: 01/06/2009)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/485306/614869/10095/0/>

RFDS flying high under new budget

A new \$8 million plane is among the items confirmed in the Royal Flying Doctor Service's (RFDS) new budget for Dubbo.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/29/2584597.htm>

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE WEB

Rural Health and Primary Care

The mission of the Idaho State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care is to promote access to quality health care for people in Idaho.

<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/site/3459/default.aspx>

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AIHW REPORT

Australian Hospital Statistics 2007-08

There were 7.9 million hospital admissions (public and private) in 2007-08, with an average annual increase of 3.6% since 2003-04. The report showed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were admitted to hospital at two and a half times the rate of other Australians and their median waiting time for elective surgery was higher than for other Australians.

Media release at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090610.cfm>

Full publication at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10776>

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 4 May 2009

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

Rapid online publication, 27 May 2009

National alcohol policy after "alcopops": what next? - Steven J Skov, on behalf of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Alcohol Advisory Group

Rapid online publication, 25 May 2009

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: 1 June 2009

From the Editor's Desk: Health IT infrastructure: "Yes we can?"

Editorials

Disorders of sex development: current understanding and continuing controversy

Should aspirin be used for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes?

Dealing with multisystem disease in people with a developmental disability

Research

The effect of compensation on health care utilisation in a trauma cohort

Effectiveness of point-of-care testing for therapeutic control of chronic conditions: results from the PoCT in General Practice Trial

Research Enterprise - Building quality in health - the need for clinical researchers

From Bench to Bedside - Molecular biomarkers to individualise treatment: assessing the evidence

Medicine and the Media - Smoking and *The Simpsons*

Viewpoint - Improving drug safety by locating genetic markers for hypersensitivity reactions

Notable Cases - Hysterectomy in a phenotypic male with advanced gonadal malignancy and intersex

Letters

Primary osteosarcoma of the sternum after coronary artery bypass grafting

Reactive arthritis due to *Chlamydia psittaci* associated with HLA-B27 genotype

Extreme insulin resistance in a patient with pre-existing diabetes during pregnancy: role of U-500 insulin

Avoiding the tragedy of another balcony collapse

Towards better health research in Australia - a plea to improve the efficiency of human research ethics committee processes

Risks of proton-pump inhibitors: what every doctor should know

Supraventricular tachycardia

When does severe childhood obesity become a child protection issue?

Varenicline and proximal myopathy

Remediation required for drug-dose calculation skills in medical students

Supplement

Clinical handover: critical communications

Patient care handovers: what will it take to ensure quality and safety during times of transition?

A shared electronic health record: lessons from the coalface

Pushing the envelope: clinical handover from the aged-care home to the emergency department

"HAND ME AN ISOBAR": a pilot study of an evidence-based approach to improving shift-to-shift clinical handover

The PACT Project: improving communication at handover

Teams communicating through STEPPS

Handover - Enabling Learning in Communication for Safety (HELiCS): a report on achievements at two hospital sites

Whiteboards: one tool to improve patient flow

Evaluation of the acceptability of standardised clinical handover tools at four Victorian health services

Inpatient care to community care: improving clinical handover in the private mental health setting

SHARED maternity care: enhancing clinical communication in a private maternity hospital setting

iSoBAR - a concept and handover checklist: the National Clinical Handover Initiative

Examining communication and team performance during clinical handover in a complex environment: the private sector post-anaesthetic care unit

Book Reviews

Clinical cases in infectious diseases: a public health approach

Textbook of disaster psychiatry

John Murtagh's practice tips

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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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Indigenous homelessness, housing and home ownership

Crowne Plaza, 32 Mitchell St, Darwin

Organised by Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

16 June, 2009

This seminar will draw on the findings of three AHURI projects: Sustaining high risk Indigenous tenancies, Indigenous homeownership on communal title lands and Flexible housing design for Indigenous communities.

<http://apo.org.au/event/indigenous-homelessness-housing-and-home-ownership>

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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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Indigenous Policy Forum 2009

26th - 28th August 2009, the Mercure Hotel, Brisbane

Indigenous Policy Forum 2009 will address the core issues surrounding the development and implementation of Indigenous policy nationwide.

Tel: +61 2 9224 6060

Email: conferences@TonkinCorporation.com

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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:

Maria Halkitis - Contract Manager, 08 8943 5020

Mick Gooda - CEO, 0409 688 403

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1st International Conference on Health Services Delivery Management (1st CHSDM) Phitsanulok Thailand 14-16th October 2009

The 1st International Conference on Health Services Delivery Management (1st CHSDM) is open to all individuals interested in the field of health services delivery management. The particular focus of the conference is on strengthening the management of Primary Health Care and district rural health services. Australian (including Indigenous) speakers will feature alongside international and Thai presenters. Call for abstracts is now open.

Conference partners include WHO SEARO, Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE), University of New England (UNE) Australia and Naresuan University Thailand, Thai Ministry of Public Health and Thailand Cardiac Children's Foundation.

The conference partners welcome participants from developing and developed countries who want to work collaboratively towards improving health systems to deliver quality health care by learning from each other and comparing health systems in international contexts.

For further details please go to the Conference website <http://www.health.nu.ac.th/hdm2009>

Contacts: Dr. David Briggs UNE dbriggs@une.edu.au; Dr P. Taytiwat taytiwat@yahoo.com; Carolyn Marsh ACHSE cmarsh@achse.org.au

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From: Elisia Dowling

Subject: International *Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress*

The Call for Proposals for the first International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress is NOW OPEN and will remain open until June 22nd 2009.

WHY NOT PUT YOUR HEALTHY AND ACTIVE MIND TO THE TEST AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL.

With the increasing recognition of the value of nature to human health and wellbeing worldwide, Parks Victoria will host the inaugural International *Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress* at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Australia from 11-16 April 2010.

This will be a unique opportunity to bring together delegates from all relevant sectors (i.e. planning, community development, physical and mental health, tourism, climate change, education, recreation, ecology and park management) to explore how we can take better advantage of the way nature significantly contributes to our wellbeing and broader societal benefits.

We are seeking proposals under the following themes: Healthy Communities, Healthy Parks, Healthy Participation, Healthy People and subthemes.

In addition to the partners displayed on the website, the support of the World Health Organisation, United Nations World Tourism Organisation, US Federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Australian Federal Government Department of Health & Ageing is being sought.

For information on submitting a proposal or to find out more about the Congress go to <http://www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org>

Elisia Dowling
Project Officer
International Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress April 11-16, 2010
Parks Victoria
Level 10/535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000, Australia
Ph: (03) 8680 2138 Fax: (03) 9613 4722 M: 0428 598 322

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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

7 June 2009

Ministerial focus: an important strategic step for rural health

The appointment for the first time of a Minister for Indigenous, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Service Delivery is an important strategic recognition of the special needs and circumstances facing people in Australia's rural and remote communities. People in the bush will expect this position to be part of a permanent increase in the Government's commitment to rural communities.

In welcoming Minister Warren Snowdon to the new position, Dr Jenny May, Chairperson of the NRHA, said the appointment will be important both for substantive policy reasons and to boost the place of rural issues on the political agenda.

"Families and businesses in rural and remote Australia face particular uncertainties in the light of the financial downturn, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and ongoing difficulties in accessing services," Dr May said.

"It's a time of change and opportunity in rural and remote Australia, and having a Minister with special responsibility for some of the critical issues will help ensure beneficial outcomes. The immediate challenges include meeting COAG's targets for Indigenous health and education, ensuring the strategic health reforms in train benefit country people and those in small communities, and making sure that people in smaller and more remote communities are included in plans for better broadband access," she said.

"There is also the issue of how Indigenous people on outstations, and people in remote areas everywhere, are included in the service and economic mainstream Australian life."

"The recent National Rural Health Conference in Cairns showed again that rural and remote areas should be seen as the best bets for investment in innovative health services - just as long as they are not short-term trials without any long-term future."

It was agreed at the Cairns Conference that there should be a single national health system, delivered at a regional level and with stronger community engagement than currently exists. The system should provide health service funding for all regions based on health need and remoteness.

"Health Minister Nicola Roxon demonstrated again at the conference her understanding of rural and remote health needs and the Government's continued commitment," Dr May said. "People will be pleased to know that Minister Roxon has the targeted support of Warren Snowdon in the new Ministerial position. The Alliance looks forward to working closely with both of them, the new Parliamentary Secretary and the Department in the interests of better health for country people."

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Media Release

8 June 2009

RURAL HEALTH CHAMPION HONOURED

The National Rural Health Alliance salutes its Executive Director, Gordon Gregory, who was awarded an OAM in this weekend's Queen's Birthday Honours list.

"Gordon's contribution to rural health has been enormous during the last 38 years, the last 17 of which he has spent as Executive Director of the Alliance," said NRHA chair Dr Jenny May. Before coming to the Alliance he was advisor to the Hon John Kerin, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry.

"As the inaugural and only Executive Director, Gordon has guided an Alliance of 12 groups to become a peak body with 28 different member organisations. Under his leadership it has become widely recognised as the country's pre-eminent body for rural health advocacy," Dr May said.

"His guiding hand has steered a path at eight consecutive biennial national rural health conferences that have allowed the sector to unite and advocate on behalf of the more than seven million people who live in rural, regional and remote Australia.

"Gordon's capacity to encourage and support rural consumers, clinicians, Indigenous groups and all those interested in the welfare of rural Australians has seen many Alliance recommendations and policies adopted by successive governments.

"Personal leadership, the capacity to bring people and communities together, and an ability to synthesise a range of disparate views into agreed positions are among the special attributes Gordon has brought to rural health. Rural Australians are very much the richer for his work and advocacy."
