

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum 1 August 2008

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PEAK BODY PRESENTS PLAN FOR IMPROVED RURAL HEALTH

The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission has been presented with strategies to address the need for investment in community health infrastructure, a needs-based funding system that recognises the increased costs of living in remote areas, and a no-fault insurance scheme for medical professionals. The full text of the Alliance statement is at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/cms/uploads/mediareleases/peak%20body%20presents%20to%20nhhrc.pdf> and is reproduced below.

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INDIGENOUS HEALTH BLUEPRINT PRESENTED TO GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION

The Close the Gap coalition has presented the federal government and Opposition with a set of National Indigenous Health Equality Targets to address the 17-year life expectancy gap

between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma said the targets are the blueprint to achieve the Prime Minister's goal of closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy in a generation. The full text of Mr Calma's statement is at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/77_08.html and the full report is at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/health/targets/

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

Cairns is the place to be next May

Don't forget to pencil in 17-20 May 2009 for the 10th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns, Qld. The Conference belongs to everyone in the rural and remote health sector - which also includes many who work in capital cities.

The Conference is a major opportunity for you to say where you want rural and remote health to be in two and five years' time. And hopefully you will come with imaginative ideas about how communities, professions and governments can be recruited to the belief that rural health is a good place to be.

The five themes of the 10th Conference are: conquering health disadvantage, building a resilient response to political and environmental climates, consulting our communities on health, working together in health care teams and on service models that are effective, and celebrating 20 years of the rural and remote health sector. There will also be a special Community Day.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts are now being sought for the 10th Conference. Abstracts can be submitted via the Conference website at <http://10thnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/> or faxed to 02 6285 4670.

The website will be regularly updated and contains all information about the 10th Conference, including abstract guidelines, registrations, program, sponsorship, exhibition and travel.

We look forward to seeing you in Cairns in May 2009.

Owen Allen
Conference Convenor, Atherton

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From: Don Perlcut (ceo)
Subject: "Psychotropic Drugs: What's Safe and What's Not" - LIVE Rural Health Education Foundation satellite broadcast - Tuesday 12th August 2008

Psychotropic Drugs: What's Safe and What's Not
Rural Health Education Foundation
LIVE Satellite Television Broadcast

Tuesday 12th August 2008 (AEST)
(repeated Friday 15th August 12:30pm)

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Psychotropic drugs are now the most commonly prescribed and, some would say, the most commonly over-prescribed drugs in Australia. They have become virtually the first line of treatment for psychiatric, mood and behavioural problems. In recent years there have been major advances with psychotropic drugs, but there are still also many problems associated with their use.

The risk of medication misadventure is often higher with psychotropic drugs. Health professionals need to remain vigilant with all patients taking psychotropics and be aware of the signs and symptoms requiring investigation. This program looks at the safe use of commonly prescribed anti-depressants, mood stabilisers, anxiolytics, hypnotics and antipsychotic drugs. It examines issues related to their toxicity, interactions, overdose and adverse effects. It deals with questions of compliance and consent, failure to respond to treatment, monitoring, management and contra-indication.

The program discusses the identification and reporting of adverse drug reactions as well as their management and prevention. It looks at the prescription of psychotropic drugs for special population groups, such as children, pregnant women and the elderly. The program also considers situations when a prescription may not be the preferred treatment and examines the future use of psychotropic drugs.

Learning outcomes

After viewing this program participants will be able to:

- * Provide more informed care for patients prescribed psychotropic medications
- * Identify the main adverse reactions to commonly prescribed psychotropics
- * Develop appropriate management and prevention strategies for adverse reactions
- * Effectively manage psychotropic drug use with special population groups such as children, pregnant women and the elderly

Panellists include:

Chair: Dr Geraldine Moses, Consultant Clinical Pharmacist, Brisbane QLD

Ms Christine Culhane, Pharmacist, Psychotropic Drug Advisory Service, Mental Health Research Institute, Melbourne, VIC

Assoc Prof Chris Alderman, Consulting Clinical Pharmacist, University of South Australia

Dr Anthony Harris, Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Psychological Medicine, University of Sydney & Senior Staff Specialist, Prevention Early Intervention and Recovery Service, Sydney West Area Health Service, NSW

Broadcast details on the Foundation's satellite network

This program will be broadcast LIVE on Tuesday 12th August on Channel 4 at:

- 8.00pm in ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS & VIC

- 7.30pm in SA & NT

- 6.00pm in WA

(repeated in WA on Channel 23 at 8.00pm)

Repeated on Friday 15th August on Channel 23 at:

- 12.30pm in ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC & TAS

- 12 noon in SA & NT

- 10.30am in WA

This program will be web streamed after the live broadcast and will also be available as a downloadable audio MP3 file.

For more details visit the <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/814/814.html> program page.

Rural Health Education Foundation

PO Box 324, Curtin ACT 2605

rhef@rhef.com.au

P (02) 6232 5480 | F (02) 6232 5484

<http://www.rhef.com.au>

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From: Rupa Ranasinghe
Subject: ARRHPS Scholarship funding

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme is now open for application.

Applications are invited from eligible health professionals (excluding doctors and nurses) who work in rural and remote communities for scholarships to assist continuing professional education. Scholarships may be granted for a range of activities, including clinical placements, short courses, postgraduate tertiary courses and attendance at professional conferences. The application package including application form, scholarship guidelines and frequently asked questions can be downloaded from the SARRAH website - <http://www.sarraah.org.au>

The closing date for applications is 29th September 2008.

Applicants are encouraged to apply online as this greatly assists the SARRAH staff to process the application form information.

Further information is available from Rupa Ranasinghe, Scholarship Program officer, phone: (02) 6162 0321 or at the email arrhpss@sarraah.org.au

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The Australian Journal of Rural Health is a multidisciplinary journal, which aims to facilitate the formation of interdisciplinary networks to build and advance rural practice for all health professionals.

Get published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health!*

The Journal welcomes short reports and letters to the editor as well as review articles, original research articles and clinical perspectives. For useful tips on submitting your manuscript, read the FREE editorial, *How to get published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health.*

Manuscripts can be submitted online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajrh> Manuscript Central or posted to:

AJRH Editorial Office
Australian Journal of Rural Health
550 Swanston Street

Carlton VIC 3053

June 2008 issue now available. Contents include:

Editorial - Successful recruitment: What now?

Review Article - Harnessing the social capital of rural communities for youth mental health:
An asset-based community development framework

Original Articles

Workplace stressors experienced by physiotherapists working in regional public hospitals

Retention of general practitioners in rural Nepal: A qualitative study

Creating a database to facilitate multilevel analyses of mental health determinants and
outcomes in rural and remote areas

Quality of life in Hepatitis C virus infection: Assessment of rural patients living in north-
western New South Wales

Rural carers online: A feasibility study

Integrated Community Policy Uptake Model: Responding to select Manitoba and
Saskatchewan rural women's experiences of health reform/renewal

Public support for anti-smoking legislation varies with smoking status

Rural inpatient rehabilitation by specialist outreach: Comparison with a city unit

Short Reports

Long-term rural general practitioners: Their original interest and considerations towards a
change in rural medicine

Depression in acute coronary syndrome: Has the evidence been implemented?

Practical Practice Pointers - Learning and being a first-time student supervisor: Challenges
and triumphs

Grazing - PHC RIS: Snapshot of Australian primary health care research

From the Journal Associates - ARNM: Promoting nursing in general practice

Letter to the Editor - Provision of health care in a geographically isolated Australian territory

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](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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HEALTH OF MATURE AGE WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA: A SNAPSHOT, 2004-05
(ABS 4837.0.55.001)

Mature age workers living in capital cities (77%) were less likely to have National Health
Priority Area conditions than those living outside of capital cities (83%).

People living in areas of greater socio-economic disadvantage have higher prevalence rates of
nearly all chronic diseases. For example, in 2004-05, workers aged 45-74 years living in
areas of greater socio-economic disadvantage were more likely to have NHPA conditions

(81%) than those living in the least disadvantaged areas (78%).

Details at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4837.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

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Join friends of the Alliance in 2007. By joining friends you will receive the updated CD 'Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991-2007', a 2007 friends certificate, and regular issues of PARTYline newsletter. Membership of friends would also give you the opportunity to be involved more closely with the Alliance's information dissemination and policy work. You will become part of a group of people who contribute to and support the work of the National Rural Health Alliance.

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From: Litsa Kane
Subject: NRHSN National Program Manager

We are advertising for a National Program Manager for the National Rural Health Students' Network. I have resigned from the position as I will be going on maternity leave in December and felt it a good time to handover to a new person to take the NRHSN forward. I will be staying on board with RHWA as the Operations and Project Manager which means that I will be able to provide a solid handover to the new person until I go on leave.

The PD for the position is here http://www.rhwa.org.au/client_images/607284.pdf

Litsa Kane
Executive Officer
National Rural Health Students' Network (NRHSN)
PO Box 6244
South Yarra Vic 3141
p 03 8825 4500 f 03 9804 7370 m 0417 696 280
<http://www.nrhsn.org.au>

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VACANCY - Position available at the NSW Rural Doctors Network CONFERENCE MANAGER

The NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) is seeking an experienced Conference Manager to join our fantastic, supportive team in the Mascot office near Sydney Airport. This very hands-on role will plan, coordinate and implement accredited conferences and Continuing Professional Development activities in support of rural doctors in New South Wales. This is a front line position providing highly regarded services for rural GPs and their families in New South Wales. Further information about qualifications, criteria, remuneration and how to apply for the position is available within the information package, downloadable from the RDN website <http://www.nswrdn.com.au> by accessing "About Us" and then "Careers with RDN". Applications will be accepted until the Close of Business on Monday, 18 August 2008.

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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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From: Cody Sharyn On Behalf Of Hwpcsec
Subject: 2nd National Health Workforce Forum - outcomes

The report from the 2nd National Health Workforce Forum held on 3 June 2008 at the Grace Hotel, Sydney is now available on the Health Workforce Australia website which can be found at <http://www.nhwt.gov.au>.

The NHWT looks forward to working with you to progress implementation of the National Health Workforce Work Program. Regular updates and project progress reports will be made available on the Health Workforce Australia website and via newsletters.

Peter Carver
Executive Director, National Health Workforce Taskforce
Level 12, 120 Spencer Street Melbourne Victoria 3000
p 613 9092 1977 f +613 9092 2093

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AIHW REPORT

Hospitalised farm injury among children and young people, Australia 2000-01 to 2004-05
Over the five-year period 2000-01 to 2004-05, a total of at least 3,926 children and young people were hospitalised as the result of injuries sustained on farms.

Further information at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10509>

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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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AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND SEEKS APPLICATIONS IN RURAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund (ARHRF) invites applications from teams of researchers/service providers/clinicians/consumers and carers, for funding to evaluate new or existing interventions/services designed to restore or promote the mental or rural medical health of Australians. The closing date for applications is Friday 3 October. For application forms and more information, go to <http://www.arhrf.org.au>

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NEW \$4.2M UQ MEDICAL CENTRE TO BOOST RURAL DOCTOR NUMBERS

The University of Queensland is helping to increase medical support in rural communities through its new \$4.2 million advanced clinical training facility. UQ's Rural Clinical School, the biggest in Australia, has added a Teaching and Learning Centre to its portfolio, with space to accommodate up to 80 students.

The Centre, adjacent to the Toowoomba Base Hospital in West Street, will provide third and fourth year medical students with access to state-of-the-art teaching spaces, a dedicated Clinical Skills Laboratory, advanced audiovisual equipment, 24-hour computer lab and a Lectopia educational recording system.

Further information at <http://www.uq.edu.au/news/index.html?article=15448>

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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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A HEALTHIER PLAN FOR RURAL AUSTRALIA

Providing real solutions to close the gap in health services between metropolitan and rural Australia has prompted three key researchers at Charles Sturt University (CSU) to devise a blueprint for rural health based on human rights.

The CSU academics, all with extensive experience working and living in regional and rural Australia, believe their blueprint will raise the debate on rural health to include social equity and provide a positive step to address the poorer health outcomes currently experienced by rural Australians.

Further details at

<http://news.csu.edu.au/director/features.cfm?itemID=7F6F827EF7880B9CE7A3728961E7B5F5>

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HEALTH FOUNDATION INDIGENOUS POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Heart Foundation offers Postgraduate Research Scholarships in biomedical, clinical and public health disciplines. These scholarships are for nursing, medical, science and other relevant graduates seeking support for full-time research studies leading to a PhD at an Australian university or institution. To be eligible for the Indigenous Research Scholarship, you either need to identify yourself as being an Indigenous person **or** be working in Indigenous Health. Applications close on Friday 15 August 2008. For more information go to http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/Postgraduate_Scholarships.htm

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RURAL HEALTH ON THE ABC

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

Govt backs off from SA country health changes

The South Australian Government has bowed to widespread pressure and withdrawn much of its proposed restructuring of country health services.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/31/2319683.htm>

RFDS aircraft a 'lifeline' for remote WA

A remote pastoralist on the Nullarbor says the addition of another Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) aircraft to the goldfields provides peace of mind for people in isolated areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/29/2317646.htm>

Health, race and the NT intervention

A conversation about the key measurements of success of the Northern Territory intervention, and the importance of evidence to support such long term policies.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/latenightlive/stories/2008/2303462.htm>

NAIDOC Week and the Health of Aboriginal Men

<http://www.abc.net.au/speakingout/stories/s2297246.htm>

Aboriginal coalition gives Govt health target petition

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/28/2316955.htm>

Nationals want more flying doctor funds

The National party has welcomed new Western Australia Government funding for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), but says it needs to go further.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/28/2316238.htm>

Rural med students could aid health worker shortage

The University of Western Australia (UWA) says an increase in the number of rural students looking at a career in medicine or dentistry could help reduce the shortage of regional health workers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/24/2313440.htm>

Libs to give RFDS \$68 million funding: Buswell

The Liberal party says it will provide funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of \$68

million over five years if it wins the next state election.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/25/2314434.htm>

Rate of farm deaths falling steadily

The number of agriculture workers killed or injured at work is declining. According to the latest Australian Government workers' compensation figures, the incident rate in agriculture, forestry and fishing is at the lowest point in 10 years. Industry deaths per year have dropped from about 150 to 100 in a decade. Julie Hill, from the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, says it could be because of state government advertising campaigns. "Sometimes it can be because equipment has been improved, so people may be doing less heavy lifting," she says. "But I would say there are 140,000 claims in all industries resulting in one week or more off work, so it's still unacceptably high. "All the state and territory OH&S authorities are working to bring that down even further."

Suicide prevention conference to focus on indigenous health

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/australian-news/4821045/suicide-prevention-conference-focus-indigenous-health>

Rural med students could aid health worker shortage

The University of Western Australia says an increase in the number of rural students looking at a career in medicine or dentistry could help reduce the shortage of regional health workers.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/australian-news/4821252/rural-med-students-aid-health-worker-shortage>

ABORIGINAL LEADER CALLS FOR GOVT TO PULL 'UNVIABLE' COMMUNITY FUNDING (PM: 22/07/2008)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/206333/614869/4366/0/>

INDIGENOUS KIDNEY TEST (AM: 19/07/2008)

<http://abcmail.net.au/t/206333/614869/4373/0/>

Aboriginal people 'least likely' to cope with health care changes

The Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia says Aboriginal people are least likely to be able to cope with the changes to health care under the South Australian Government's Country Health Plan.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/23/2312088.htm>

UNE rural medicine school welcomes overseas students

The University of New England is to expand its school of rural medicine to include overseas students.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/23/2311702.htm>

Call for NT election policies on Indigenous health

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/a/-/australian-news/4817224>

Gippsland faced with aging GP problem: GETGP

A national roundtable meeting of rural health groups in Canberra on Tuesday heard Australia needs at least an extra 1,000 general practitioners.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/23/2312084.htm>

Qld doctors back Indigenous 'baby packs'

Two far north Queensland doctors say Indigenous mothers should be given special 'baby packs' instead of the baby bonus.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/21/2309788.htm>

HCRRA call for patient-assisted transport priority

The Health Consumers of Rural and Remote Australia (HCRRA) has called for patient-assisted transport schemes to be at the top of the health summit's agenda

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/22/2310372.htm>

Health organisations meet to address rural doctor shortage

Health organisations from across the country will meet in Canberra to try to address the shortage of health professionals in rural Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/21/2309196.htm>

SA health plan not on rural forum agenda

Health organisations meet in Canberra tomorrow to address the issue of a shortage of health professionals in rural Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/21/2309124.htm>

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IMPROVING AGED AND COMMUNITY CARE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

The Federal Government is calling for tenders to develop new workforce training resources to help improve home and community care for frail and older indigenous Australians. It is anticipated that the project will have national application for the some 1,400 people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HACC (Home and Community Care) workforce.

Further information at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr08-je-je128.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2008&mth=7>

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS, 2008

ABS 4102.0. Available at

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4102.0?OpenDocument>

Population

National and state summary tables

Population distribution

Towns of the mineral boom

How many children have women in Australia had?

Family and community

National and state summary tables

Families with a child with a disability

Voluntary work

Social participation of migrants

Health

- National and state summary tables
- Risk taking by young people
- People with a need for assistance
- Complementary therapies

Education and training

- National and state summary tables
- Education across Australia
- Adult literacy
- Adult learning

Work

- National and state summary tables
- Labour force participation across Australia
- Barriers to work
- Trade union members
- Industrial disputes

Economic resources

- National and state summary tables
- Women's incomes
- Government benefits, taxes and household income

Housing

- National and state summary tables
- Renter households
- First home buyers
- Housing and services in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Other areas of social concern

- National and state summary tables
- Internet access at home
- Public transport use for work and study

International comparisons

- International summary tables

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CURRENT ISSUE OF eMJA, 21 July 2008

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

Editorials

- General practice in 2008: a time of metamorphosis
- Cancer care: what role for the general practitioner?
- Pay for performance systems in general practice: experience in the United Kingdom
- Promises to Policy
- What impact will the change of federal government have on Australian general practice?
- Chronic Disease

Estimating prevalence of common chronic morbidities in Australia
Prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in Australia
Sharing or shuffling - realities of chronic disease care in general practice
Timely cancer diagnosis and management as a chronic condition: opportunities for primary care
In Clinical Practice
Information overload: what's behind it, what's beyond it?
The effect of advertising in clinical software on general practitioners' prescribing behaviour
Investigation of cardiovascular risk factors in type 2 diabetes in a rural Australian Division of General Practice
Health care for people with intellectual disability
I went to work with a "cold" ...
From the Patient's Perspective
Measuring patient-reported outcomes: moving from clinical trials into clinical practice
Access to general practitioners in South Australia: a population survey
Research Enterprise
The Brisbane International Initiative: fostering leadership and international collaboration in primary care research
Research productivity in Australian general practice: what has changed since the 1990s?
Feasibility of conducting a primary prevention trial of low-dose aspirin for major adverse cardiovascular events in older people in Australia: results from the ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) pilot study
Redefining Roles
The promise and pitfalls of generalism in achieving the Alma-Ata vision of health for all
Getting back into the emergency department: diversifying general practice while relieving emergency medicine workforce shortages
Addiction and addiction medicine: exploring opportunities for the general practitioner
General Practice Workforce
Addressing general practice workforce shortages: policy options
Women's contribution to general practice: Medusa or Mother Teresa?
Medical teaching in rural Australia: should we be concerned about the international medical graduate connection?

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YOUNG LEADERS CALL FOR AUSTRALIAN ACTION ON CAUSES OF ILL HEALTH

Twenty-three future public health leaders from across Australia and the United States have called on the Rudd Government to establish an Australian Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Details at http://www.crcah.org.au/view/80759/AboriginalHealth_sub/young-leaders-call-for-australian-action-on-causes-of-ill-health.html

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GROWTH IN HEALTH SPENDING SLOWS IN MANY OECD COUNTRIES

A combination of slower growth in spending on healthcare and expanding economies has led to a stabilisation of health spending as a proportion of GDP in many OECD countries, according to OECD Health Data 2008. Details are at

http://www.oecd.org/document/27/0,3343,en_2649_33717_40902299_1_1_1_1,00.html

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ARTICLES IN "RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH"

'Aboriginal maternal and infant care workers: partners in caring for Aboriginal mothers and babies'

Addressing the poor maternal and child health outcomes of disadvantaged groups is a high priority in all countries. This article by a South Australia team describes a partnership between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health workers to provide appropriate and holistic care to Aboriginal women and their children.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=883>

'Clinical placement and rurality of career commencement: a pilot study'

Tracking the outcomes of students placement is easier said than done - most go their own way after graduation and are lost to follow up. Congratulations to a group of researchers from rural Victoria, Australia, who have reversed this trend! Now, read the article to see if their study supports the value of rural placements - or not.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=964>

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SA COUNTRY HEALTH PLAN "MODIFIED"

The South Australian Government's controversial new Country Health Care Plan will be "modified" following immense pressure for change from South Australia's rural communities. SA Stock Journal reports that Health Minister John Hill said the formal six-week consultation process on the Plan closed today and submissions, letters, emails and feedback about the plan would be responded to by the end of August. "We won't impose a health care plan on country South Australians that they don't want," Mr Hill said.

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NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE, 2002-2006 (ABS 1379.0.55.001)

The National Regional Profile (NRP) presents, for all Australia, a range of data for various types of small regions. Data are available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas and other larger geographies.

Access the NRP from the NRP Welcome Page at

http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@_nsf/97adb482c0aba769ca2570460017d0e7/0890b52c851a7c2eca2574010001be06!OpenDocument.

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2nd NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE - "FROM BABIES TO BLOKES: THE MAKING OF MEN"

MAN, the Men's Advisory Network, Western Australia's peak men's organisation, will host their second national conference entitled 'from babies to blokes: the making of men' in Fremantle, Western Australia in August 2008. The Men's Advisory Network (MAN) is the peak body for service providers, organisations and individuals concerned with men's health, wellbeing and other issues affecting males of all ages in Western Australia. With nine outstanding keynote speakers already confirmed, this conference will be an important learning experience for all those who work with men and boys. A new understanding of manhood is essential to improving the wellbeing of the whole community. We invite your participation. Information is at <http://www.promaco.com.au/2008/man/>

The Men's Advisory Network Inc. 2nd National Conference Fremantle, Western Australia Esplanade Hotel 3-6 August 2008

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

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ACRA/CDN Trade "Health At The Heart Of Australia" - Exhibition Space, Deadline for Abstracts

"Health At The Heart Of Australia" conference
Alice Springs Convention Centre 13- 15th August 2008
18th Annual Scientific Meeting and Exhibition of the Australian Cardiovascular Health and Rehabilitation Association and 12th Annual Conference
Information at http://www.crana.org.au/n_d.php?ID=356

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RANZCOG 2008 Australian Indigenous Women's Health Meeting
14-16 August 2008, Darwin

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is convening an Indigenous women's health meeting, with the aim of bringing together health professionals across the country with the common interest and desire to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.
<http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/news.html#RAZ>

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9th INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

14-16 August 2008, Holiday Inn, Gold Coast.
The revised link for access to the conference website is Conference website:
<http://www.gcimh.com.au/conference/>

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From: Fiona Armstrong
Subject: CoNNO National Nursing Research Symposium Melbourne 22 August

The National Nursing Research Symposium is to be held in Melbourne on 22 August 2008. The Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO) is hosting the National Nursing Research Symposium.

The exciting program featuring national and international research experts will include a Keynote Address from successful nursing researcher Professor Simon Stewart (Head, Preventative Cardiology, Baker Heart Research Institute).

Please contact the CoNNO Secretariat if you require any further information.

Fiona Armstrong
Federal Professional Officer
Australian Nursing Federation
For the CoNNO Secretariat
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Melbourne VIC 3000
T: 03 9602 8500 M: 0438 900 005 E: fiona@anf.org.au

The Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO) is made up of more than 50 national nursing organisations in an alliance to work collectively to advance the nursing profession to improve health care. The members of CoNNO represent the national interests of nurses in all sectors of the health profession, and comprise national nursing organisations from over 50 different speciality areas of nursing practice.

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2008 SARRAH CONFERENCE

2008 National SARRAH Conference: Many Paddocks One Herd. 27-30 August 2008, Yeppoon, Central Queensland

Registrations are now open for the 2008 SARRAH Conference.

<http://www.sarrah.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=87530>

This conference is the peak opportunity for rural and remote allied health and oral health professionals to come together and present, discuss, debate and summarise the elements of their professional lives that bind them together.

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Menzies Lecture Series and Short Course in Improving Aboriginal Child Health 29-30 August

Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin is holding a two day short course on "Improving Aboriginal Child Health - what works and what's new". It will take place on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 August and will include the 2008 Alan Walker Lecture Series with presentations by David Brewster, Jonathan Carapetis and Paul Torzillo.

For more information and short course registration, go to

<http://www.menzies.edu.au/shortcourses> or contact Belinda Hosking on 08 8922 8657 or Belinda.Hosking@menzies.edu.au. Insights & Solutions: 2nd International conference

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INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS: the combined 2nd International Conference on Alcohol and Other Drug Related Brain Injury and the Brain Injury Australia National Conference 2008 (Melbourne, Australia, Monday 1 - Wednesday 3 September 2008). As you may already know, leading acquired brain injury organisations, arbias and Brain Injury Australia, have joined forces to bring you this exciting and informative three day event. The combined conference recognises the need for innovative approaches and improved practice in the field of acquired brain injury and this will feature throughout the conference program. The overarching theme, INSIGHTS and SOLUTIONS, will provide a focal point for exploring all facets of acquired brain injury and presents an opportunity for people with acquired brain injury, their families and carers, clinicians, professional workers, researchers and policy makers to: -access cutting edge national and international research -drive education and prevention campaigns -build stronger treatment and support networks. Online registration is now open via this link <https://www.secureregistrations.com/brain08/>. For more information: <http://www.arbias.org.au> or <http://www.bia.net.au> or email events@adf.org.au or phone (03) 9728 8137

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CRANA Conference 2008
Australia's Remote Health Challenge: Is Primary Health Care the solution?
11 - 14 September 2008
Cairns, Queensland
More information at <http://www.crana.org.au/cr.php?ID=9>

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Alice Springs Renal Seminar
For all Health Professionals interested and/ or working in the prevention, early detection & management of Chronic Kidney Disease
Tues 23rd and Wed. 24th September 2008
0800 - 1630
Liebig Building Alice Springs Hospital Campus
More at http://www.crana.org.au/n_d.php?ID=401

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4th Annual National Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is on from October 1st - 3rd 2008 at the Quest East St. Kilda Function Centre; St Kilda Vic. Contact details; Elder Abuse Prevention Association 1300 884 665 <http://www.eapa.asn.au>

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International Society of Aeromedical Services and Flight Nurses Australia

20th Scientific Meeting

2 - 4 October 2008

We invite you to South Australia for what promises to be the most dynamic and exciting Air Medicine Conference in Australasia. Entitled "Learning from the Past - Looking to the Future".

http://www.crana.org.au/news_d.php?ID=400

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2008 AIDA Symposium - Our Culture, Our Kids, Our Future

Saturday 4 October, 2008

Darwin

Information at <http://www.aida.org.au/news.asp?id=30>

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Recruitment and Retention in the Health Workforce 08

The Refectory, Holme Building, University of Sydney

October 8th and 9th 2008, Sydney, Australia

For More Information Contact the Conference Organisers Bower Bird Information Services

Tel 61 2 4962 2588 Fax 61 2 4962 2599 Email sales@bowerbird.com

Website: <http://www.recruitmentandretention.org>

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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.

Last year, over 300 organisations and more than 10,000 people were involved around the country. Everyone is welcome to organise activities or join in something being organised by other people. The activities can be large or small, and activities at local levels are especially welcome.

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.

For more info or to list activities on the website, contact us at 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>

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The biennial ACRRM Scientific Forum will be held at Brighton Beach, Sydney 23-26 September 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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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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Media Release
29 July 2008
Peak body presents plan for improved rural health

The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission has been presented with strategies to address the need for investment in community health infrastructure, a needs-based funding system that recognises the increased costs of living in remote areas, and a no-fault insurance scheme for medical professionals.

And, in a useful exchange of views, the Commission challenged the National Rural Health Alliance to further develop its proposal for a health care system based on regional communities of interest and pooled or broad-banded funding.

At a meeting last week Alliance Chair, Prof John Wakerman, told the Commission of the need for a national rural health plan to bring together new policy threads and address the particular circumstances faced by the 32 per cent of Australians who live in rural, regional and remote Australia.

"The plan could come under the umbrella of the National Healthcare Agreement to be put in place in July 2009. It would include indicators and targets to ensure that health funding is allocated according to need," Prof Wakerman said.

Immediate Past Chair of the Alliance, Sue McAlpin, argued for equity of access to health outcomes. She said local availability of primary care services is essential.

"These days health professionals are likely to spend a few years in a rural area and then move on. With more investment in health infrastructure in the community, such as clinic buildings, staff housing and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services, it would be easier for new professionals to move in and so for there to be continuity of services," Ms McAlpin said.

Alliance Deputy Chair, Jenny May, said the current arrangements where doctors had vicarious indemnity for other health professionals who they employed, should be reviewed while canvassing alternate approaches.

"We need a system where medical professionals can access no-fault compensation in case of misadventure. This approach has wider implications, too, and could be crafted to support a range of community activities which no longer run because of public liability risks," Dr May said.

Executive Director, Gordon Gregory, told the Commission that rural Australia has a strong regional culture which would be a practical basis for a redesigned health funding system.

"These regions might at times disregard State and Territory borders, and in some areas there is high intra-regional mobility. Country people will be served well if the Commonwealth and States/Territories can co-operate to provide a regional approach to health funding," he said.

Professor Wakerman, Director of the Centre for Remote Health and part-time GP from Alice Springs, Dr May, a rural GP and academic from Tamworth, and Ms McAlpin, a Senior Lecturer in nutrition and dietetics from Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga, travelled to Canberra to meet with the Commission and present specific proposals to improve health outcomes for people living in rural and remote Australia.

The Alliance also presented details for invigorated State/Territory patients' accommodation and travel support schemes for those who need to access more specialised care in the major cities.